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ADC Launches Anti-Terror Campaign

Former US Senator James Abourezk, head of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, announced that his organization is fighting back against increasing domestic terrorism targeted at Arab-Americans and their organizations.

Abourezk said in a December 3 press conference at his ADC Washington office that the anti-terror campaign is the result of mounting frustration over several unsolved crimes against the organization. He said ADC is also launching its own investigation into the attacks, including a recent fire which damaged the ADC Washington office and a bombing which killed an ADC official in California.

Officials in Washington have termed the November 29 fire "suspicious" and are investigating the possibility of arson. Abourezk said he believes the fire which broke out in the offices of a public relations firm below the ADC National Headquarters was caused by a fire bomb intended for the Arab organization.

Abourezk said, "I am announcing today that ADC will conduct its own investigation" into the fire. "We will not stop until the criminals are brought to justice." In a statement December 2, the heads of other Arab-American groups appealed for protection from law-enforcement officials and "Americans of goodwill" against the attacks. The statement asserted that "no cases of attacks against Arab-American organizations have resulted in convictions or even, as yet, in indictments."

As part of the ADC anti-terror campaign, Abourezk said, "ADC is preparing a statement denouncing the importation of terrorism into this country, which we ask all people and groups to sign. We will ask Jewish groups, Black groups, Hispanic groups, religious groups and others, whether minorities or those in the majority, to sign.

"ADC's chapters around the United States, over 60 of them, will be holding solidarity dinners within the next couple of weeks in conjunction with the same kind of groups who are being asked to sign the statement."

Abourezk said ADC will also take their campaign to official Washington which has a "responsibility" to do something about domestic terror. "Most importantly, we believe that political leaders around the country have a responsibility to denounce terrorism within the United States," he said.

Abourezk continued, "Therefore, I am calling on all members of Congress, of the Administration, and city and state political leaders to make the strongest possible public statements letting these criminals know that they will not get approval, either passive or active, from any quarter in this country.

"I have requested of the

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File photo of ADC founder James Abourezk in an anti-apartheid demonstration in Washington

Administrative Detainee in Third Week of Hunger Strike

At least one Palestinian administrative detainee is known to be on hunger strike for the third week protesting his detention without charge or trial, while others' health is reportedly deteriorating because of prolonged inhumane detention conditions.

Jibril Rajoub, 31, from Dura in the Hebron district, has been on hunger strike since the second day of his arrest, according to his lawyer Jawad Boulus.

Rajoub was arrested in Hebron November 18. He is one of hundreds of Palestinian political prisoners freed last May 20 in a prisoner-exchange agreement between Israel and a Palestinian guerrilla group the PFLP-GC.

Boulus said he tried hard at the beginning to get the military to explain the reasons for Rajoub's arrest, but to no avail. He was also denied a meeting with his client allegedly because "investigations with Rajoub require that no person meet him" according to the legal adviser to the military government in the West Bank.

Rajoub was active in the prison release negotiations and reportedly was in charge of drawing up the list of prisoners to be released while he was in Jnaid Prison near Nablus. After his release, he became active in a program set up to help rehabilitate his fellow prisoners. Rajoub was arrested one day after he inaugurated the Prisoner's Rehabilitation Center in East Jerusalem of which he was the director.

Rajoub was not brought to two court hearings at Ramallah's military court November 25 and 28. Boulus requested that his client be present to help defend himself.

Worried that Rajoub may have been kept from seeing his lawyer because he may have been tortured, Boulus demanded that the court request Rajoub's presence at future court hearings. Finally, he was promised his client would be present at a hearing scheduled for December 3.

At the December 3 hearing, Boulus was able for the first time to meet with his client. During this meeting, Boulus learned that Rajoub has been on hunger strike since November 19. Rajoub was described following his encounter as "very weak and unable to move."

Rajoub told the court that he was threatened that if he did not cooperate with his interrogators they were going to hand him over to the South Lebanon Army, an action which means his immediate death. Rajoub also denied all charges levied against him including membership in Fatah, recruiting members for Fatah, and giving orders to carry out anti-Israel operations while still in prison.

After hearing the case, the judges agreed to remand Rajoub's detention for 21 more days. They also ordered that Rajoub be checked by specialist physicians if his health requires it. Rajoub is suffering from a stomach ailment he developed during his previous 16-year imprisonment.

Meanwhile, Palestinian journalist Ribhi Arouri has been placed in administrative detention as of last week. Arouri, a member of the staff of *Al Darb* newspaper, has been sought for several months by the Israeli military. *Al Darb* was itself closed down by the military censor who claimed it was publishing anti-Israel material. With Arouri's detention, the number of administrative detainees is more than 100.

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Palestine Encyclopedia Banned

A four-volume Palestinian encyclopedia has been banned from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip because it included one sentence hinting to a possible relationship between Zionism and racism.

Israel's Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin last week told the Arab-Jewish Progressive List for Peace that the military censor's decision to ban the more than 2600-page encyclopedia stems from a sentence on page 431 of the encyclopedia which states that "Zionism, whose origin comes from the belief in the chosen people, found unity with Nazism, which believed in the supreme German people."

Rabin was responding to an enquiry by Matti Peled, a leading member of Alternative, which, along with Muhammad Miari's Progressive Movement, form the PLP. In his enquiry, Peled asked Rabin to explain why the encyclopedia was taken from Palestinian Professor Ishaq Musa Husseini during his return through the Jordan bridge last May.

Professor Husseini, president of the East Jerusalem College of Arts for Women, was one of 200 Arab contributors to the Palestinian encyclopedia which took eight years to write. He was returning home from Jordan on May 10 carrying the encyclopedia with him when the bridge censor confiscated it. It has not been returned to him despite his regular requests to get them back. The four volumes are worth more than US$300 dollars.

In his response to Peled's enquiry, the Israeli defense minister said that "every publication in order to get into the country must get clearance from the censor." He added that "the list of 350 books banned (in the occupied territories) does not indicate that books not included in the list are allowed in." The defense minister said that "the encyclopedia has been found by the censor to be ineligible for import because of a sentence equating Zionism with racism."

According to Peled, this means the encyclopedia will not be returned to Prof. Husseini just because it entered the country through the bridge. It would have

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Palestinian commando carried by his comrades after Israeli raid.

Israel Strikes Commandos in South Lebanon

Israeli troops waged a battle against armed Palestinian commandos in South Lebanon above the so-called "security zone." Palestinian reports indicated that several Israelis were killed or wounded in the December 2 exchange.

A spokesperson for the Israeli military said an infantry unit crossed into Lebanon in the middle of the night reaching the Hush a-Dneiba area in the wee hours of morning. Hush a-Dneiba is northeast of the town of Hasbia also north of the security belt.

The Israeli soldiers reportedly clashed with commandos from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. Several hundred Palestinian political prisoners were released last May from Israeli jails in an exchange between Israel and the PFLP-GC.

Reports from Lebanon indicate the commandos were using caves in the area. Several Palestinians were taken prisoner by the Israelis and weapons were confiscated. The Israeli army spokesperson said five Palestinians were killed in the battle, but denied any Israeli casualties.

A statement issued by the PFLP-GC in Damascus indicated, however, that the battle lasted for nearly eight hours. Hundreds of Israeli paratroopers participated and were met by fierce Palestinian resistance. The statement also said that several Israeli soldiers were killed in the fighting.

Inside the "security zone," it was reported that Israeli army units also interfered to quell a rebellion in the ranks of the Israeli-supported South Lebanon Army last week. Israeli tanks were reported to have besieged some of the militia's positions after SLA soldiers there refused to surrender to the Israeli army.

Artillery and machine gun clashes between both sides left eight militiamen dead, 11 wounded and 12 arrested. Three Israeli soldiers were also killed and six injured, reports said.

In Beirut, meanwhile, sporadic fighting continued during the week between warring militias. Tension eased somewhat after another ceasefire agreement was reached December 3. A statement issued after a meeting between Walid Jumblatt, head of the Druze Progressive Socialist Party, and Nabih Berri, leader of the Amal Shi'ite movement, December 2, indicated that both sides had agreed to implement a chain of security arrangements, but refused to elaborate until they were discussed with Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

16 International, 600 local delegations attend

Israel Communists Hold 20th Conference

The Israeli Communist Party General Conference opened in Haifa December 4 under the slogan "Unity of struggle against occupation, racism, and the dangers of fascism. For peace, independence, equality, democracy and rights of workers."

More than 600 delegates from 90 party branches all over Israel are taking part in the conference which is scheduled to last for four days. The opening session was also attended by 16 delegations representing communist and workers' parties from different continents, among them a Soviet and a US delegation.

The conference was also attended by Palestinian local councils, mayors, councillors, prominent Arab and Jewish figures, writers and unionists. Guests from the occupied territories also were present. The conference also attracted the attention of the local and foreign media.

Chaim Herzog, the Israeli president also accepted an invitation thus setting a precedent under which a head of the Israeli state would attend the party conference. This was considered by many observers as proof of the increasing importance of the party in the political life of the country and in the international arena. This provoked the fascist Kach movement and the right-wing Tehiya party who attacked the Israeli president and demanded he refuse to attend.

The opening session began with MK Tawfiq Toubi, the deputy secretary general of the party, welcoming the guests and representatives. He stressed the party's solidarity with the Palestinian people of the occupied territories who "struggle bravely against all means of suppression and for the establishment of a Palestinian independent state." In his speech, Toubi said that the ICP is the only party in Israel which stands firmly against the strategic US-Israeli accords. "Ours is the only way that leads to the true and lasting peace," Toubi said.

The Israeli president then delivered a speech in which he said the conference was convened in a period during which high hopes are held concerning the agreement of the two superpowers after the Geneva summit.

The Central Committee report was delivered by Secretary-General Meir Vilner. Greeting telegrams were read from many communist parties all over the world.

The conference is expected to conclude its sessions Saturday, December 7, when a new central committee will be elected. The last party conference was held in 1981.

The Israeli Communist Party advocates an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab land and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside the state of Israel. It has been conducting a brave struggle inside Israel against all kinds of suppression and harassment inflicted upon the Palestinian people. It has also demanded the Israeli government recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians. The official platform states that no peace can be achieved without recognition of the right of the Palestinians to self-determination.

The Arab-Jewish party was originally established in 1919 and called itself the Palestinian Communist Party at that time. After the establishment of Israel in 1948, the party became known as the Israeli Communist Party.

Galilee Local Councils' Strike, Demand Funds

Arab local councils in Israel struck for one day December 2 in protest of Israeli failure to pay the allocated council budgets. Israeli officials immediately promised to pay the full amount within the week.

The Regional Committee of Arab Local Council Heads originally called for an open municipal employee strike. They also struck more than two months ago for the same reason and also at that time received Israeli Interior Ministry promises to pay up. This time they decided to call off the strike when Israeli officials vowed to hand over the amount due — more than IS one billion — by Sunday, December 8.

The one-day strike was successful throughout the Galilee and the Triangle and brought all municipal services except schools to a halt. Ibrahim Nimr Hussein, mayor of the Galilee town of Shafa Amr and head of the Regional Committee, said in his statement issued November 27 that the strike was decided upon in order to force the hand of the authorities who owe both US 1.7 million dollars and the one billion shekels in Israeli currency.

Hussein said the money is for development planning and was originally promised by the Interior Ministry last April. Hussein said the strike was also motivated by the authorities' refusal to arrange a meeting between the Regional Committee, and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and his interior minister.

The Regional Committee held an emergency meeting December 2 in the midst of the strike. They decided to accept the official promises made by Interior Minister Chaim Kubersby and Yusef Jenat, head of Minister-without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman's office. The strike will be resumed December 9 if the money is not received as promised.

The committee also planned a demonstration in front of the Israeli Knesset December 11 and a regional demonstration in Nazareth December 14. If the money is paid before then, the demonstrations will be cancelled.

Knesset members from the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality submitted an urgent request to discuss the matter and to oblige the Interior Ministry to pay the amount due to the Arab councils immediately. The Knesset agreed to discuss the matter next week.

Nazareth Area Lands Confiscated

In an attempt to block the development of several Nazareth area villages, Israeli authorities announced plans to annex more than 9000 dunums of land from these villages to the Israeli city of Nazaret Illit.

Local council heads of these villages fear the annexation will block off all village growth, cut them off from one another and eventually turn their villages into ghetto neighborhoods.

The Haifa-based *Al Ittihad* Arabic daily reported that the land belongs to the villages of Mashhad, Kufr Kanna, Ain Mahel, Daburia and Rene.

The local councils of these villages received letters from the Israeli Ministry of Interior inviting them to a meeting to discuss the proposed annexation. Maps sent with the invitations indicated that 3000 dunums were to be taken from the land of Rene, Ain Mahel, and Mashhad.

When the local councils studied these maps, the paper said, they discovered that 6000 dunums had already been confiscated from the villages in the past and were to be annexed to the Jewish neighborhood of Upper Nazareth or Nazaret Illit.

Four heads of the local councils met last week and decided to boycott the meeting. Instead they will wage a popular and legal struggle against the Israeli plan in coordination with the Committee in Defense of Land and the Regional Committee of the Heads of Arab Local Councils.

This Israeli attempt at annexation was described by the heads of these village councils as a step aimed at deterring the development of their villages. Nazaret Illit, the council heads stated, was built on confiscated Arab land and encompasses 15,000 dunums. They further said that it is their villages not Nazaret Illit which are in desperate need of land on which to build for the future. They also expressed their determination to wage a unified struggle since their survival is at stake.

International Organization Seeks Accountant

Applicants must be proficient in Arabic, French and English. Hebrew knowledge is also preferred. Experience: A minimum of five years in accounting.

Applicants can submit written applications containing personal data to P.O. Box 20253 or calling after December 10 (02) 285657 – 280845 – 284885.

Prominent Lawyer Murdered in Ramallah

Thousands of mourners filled the streets of Ramallah in the funeral procession of lawyer Aziz Shehadeh

by Daoud Kuttab

Prominent Palestinian lawyer Aziz Shehadeh was savagely murdered outside his Ramallah home December 2. The attack appears to have been criminally motivated.

Shehadeh, 73, died shortly after an unknown assailant attacked him from behind and slit his throat. Five local Arabs were arrested as part of a police investigation into some law cases Shehadeh was handling. Some of them had involved threats on Shehadeh's life.

Police investigators are also looking into the possible involvement of some West Bank judges who were removed from their posts and tried for bribery. Shehadeh was instrumental in exposing some of the most prominent judges in the West Bank, including Ghaleb al-Haj Mahmoud, the head of the West Bank's highest civil court, the Court of Appeals.

Sources in Shehadeh's office have rejected any possibility of political motivation for the brutal murder. Hisham Hatu, a partner in the Shehadeh firm, told *Al Fajr* that since 1979 Aziz Shehadeh has not been involved in any political activity. "He has been turning down interviews and meetings of a political nature since then," said Hatu.

Other sources in the Shehadeh firm, which is the largest in the West Bank, noted that Shehadeh has been forbidding any member of the firm to discuss matters of a political nature in the office. "He has been trying to concentrate his time and effort on his legal practice and in serving his people," one source said.

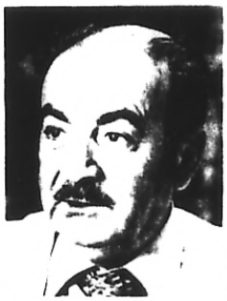
Since the 1940s, Shehadeh was active in the defense of Palestine. He defended Palestinian fighters while practicing in Jaffa. He released Palestinian refugee funds frozen by the British in 1948 and released many homes and lands held by the Israeli Custodian of Absentee Property after 1967. He also defended many Palestinians in Israeli military courts, often with little or no charge.

A funeral was held for Shehadeh December 4 which was attended by thousands of local residents, Palestinian dignitaries, Israeli officials, leaders in the religious community and foreign diplomatic representatives. The funeral was held up two days until Shehadeh's children could return home. Shehadeh's oldest son, Raja, was attending a conference for the International Commission of Jurists in Kenya. His married daughters, Samr and Siham, had to return from Amman for the funeral.

Shops on the main street of Ramallah closed as the funeral procession traveled from the Shehadeh home to to the Anglican Church. The procession, with two wreaths on the coffin, stopped for a minute as it passed by the Shehadeh law firm on Ramallah's main street. At St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Bishop Samir Qafeiti eulogized Shehadeh saying, "You were dear to your community, your Church and your homeland." Quoting from the Bible, Qafeiti said, "You have fought the hard fight and have kept the faith."

After the church ceremony where more people stood outside than those crammed inside the church, the procession returned through Ramallah's streets to the cemetery where he was laid to rest. At the cemetery, Aziz Shehadeh's brother and co-founder of the firm broke down in a show of grief. Fu'ad Shehadeh recently lost his sight and cried at the graveside that he was not even able to see his brother go.

Hundreds of messages, telegrams and obituaries expressing sorrow for the sudden death of Shehadeh were received. The PLO issued a strong statement condemning the murder. A telephone caller to the press offices of AFP in Paris claimed that the Abu Nidal Palestinian group of Fatah rebels had carried out the killing. Sources close to the family discounted this claim saying that the call was made 24 hours after the killing, giving plenty of time for the news to become common knowledge.



Aziz Shehadeh

Aziz Shehadeh was born in Bethlehem in 1912 and was active in Palestinian national politics most of his life. He was a controversial figure. He wrote the book *ABC of the Palestinian Problem* and represented Palestinian refugees at the Luzan conference.

Aziz Shehadeh was ahead of his time being the first Palestinian to call for an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip when nationalists still spoke of a state in all of Palestine. He opposed the Jericho conference in 1948 which called for the annexation of the West Bank to the Kingdom of Jordan.

Aziz Shehadeh leaves behind his wife, Widad; sons, Raja and Samer; and daughters, Samr and Siham.

Aziz Shehadeh's killing could only be characterized as a cowardly and shameful act against an elderly and unarmed civilian. Whoever murdered Shehadeh committed a crime against the Palestinian people by killing a nationalist known for over 50 years for his courage and independence of mind. Shehadeh was also known for his unwaivering commitment to what he saw as the best for the Palestinian people, withstanding criticism from any source. His independence of mind is a characteristic that should be praised and emulated. Shehadeh's murder will in no way deter those who speak out, from continuing to do so. We mourn his unfortunate death.

Paul Ajlouny
Al Fajr publisher

Paris — Israel & Palestine Magazine mourns the cruel death of

Aziz Shehadeh
(Abu Raja)

Settler Shot in Qalqilya; Town Curfewed

Israeli troops placed the town of Qalqilya under curfew November 30 following the shooting of an Israeli in the town marketplace.

An Arab resident of the Galilee was also wounded the same day by Israeli troops enforcing the curfew.

Israel Television reported that an unidentified man approached Yitzhak Ron, 43, from Sal'it agricultural settlement, inside pre-1967 Israel midway between Qalqilya and Tulkarm, and fired at him from close range. Ron was seriously wounded in the neck and head.

The settler was then rushed to a Tel Aviv Hospital. Israeli troops brought to the city immediately mounted a manhunt for the attacker. They also rounded up a number of Arab residents for questioning, but there were no reports that the attacker was among them.

Meanwhile, the Israeli authorities claimed that the Arab resident of Qalqilya was shot for refusing to stop when ordered to do so by the Israeli army during the curfew. He was transferred to Me'ir Hospital in Kfar Saba near Qalqilya.

The curfew on Qalqilya was lifted December 2, but Israeli troops still maintain a large presence in the town.

There have been several similar shooting incidents against Israelis in various parts of the West Bank this year. The most recent shooting occurred in Tulkarm and Jenin August 24. Two Israeli soldiers were also stabbed, one fatally, in Hebron September 3.

In a related event, an explosive device exploded in the commercial center of Afula December 3. Over 120 Arabs were arrested, most of whom were from the West Bank. Following the incident, roads linking Afula with the West Bank were cut by police and border police. According to Israel Radio, this was the sixth explosion in the city in recent months.

The radio also said that Israeli investigators believe the explosion cannot be considered separately from the others. According to the radio report, the explosion did not result in any casualties. An *Al Fajr* reporter in the Galilee, however, said that many of the commercial stores in the area were damaged.

In the northern city of Nablus, an Israeli car was stoned in the main street of Faisal. The area was immediately cordoned off by the Israeli army for about one hour. A number of Arab youths were detained.

Danish Doctor Barred From Seeing Shu'aibi

Israeli military authorities refused November 28 to allow a Danish physician to examine Dr. Azmi Shu'aibi, one of four Palestinians arrested one month ago and slated for deportation.

Dr. Mogens Elmer, a consultant in social medicine for the district of Copenhagen, was stopped just 10 meters from Dr. Shu'aibi inside Jnaid Prison in Nablus.

Dr. Shu'aibi, an elected councilman of al-Bireh municipality, suffers from a chronic, debilitating lung disease. His lawyer requested that a physician other than the prison doctor examine him, after a military review committee recommended three weeks ago his deportation pending a medical exam.

Dr. Elmer received permission from the office of the Israeli Prison Commissioner, Rafi Suissa, to see Dr. Shu'aibi under two conditions. The conditions were that the exam be done in the presence of the prison doctor and that a written report be presented to prison officials before leaving the prison. Dr. Elmer says he agreed to the restrictions — which he calls "disturbing and controlling for me as a doctor" — as the only way to obtain the necessary permit.

At the prison, Dr. Elmer was questioned for one hour by the second commander about specifics of what he intended to ask Dr. Shu'aibi, a procedure the Danish physician says he found "deeply unethical." It was only after this detailed questioning that Dr. Elmer was informed that he needed a second permit for the visit from military authorities. After another hour, he was told the permission to examine Dr. Shu'aibi was denied.

Dr. Elmer expressed his astonishment at the Israeli measures and described the incident as "incredible." The doctor, however, pledged to report it to the appropriate organization.

On the other hand, advocate Felicia Langer who visited Shu'aibi last week reported that he is suffering from severe pain around his kidneys. The prison doctor reportedly gave him medicine for kidney stones though it is possible that these pains are a result of his chronic lung disease. Medical reports said that more than 80 percent of his lungs are not functioning.

The Israeli general prosecutor reiterated his demand for the deportation of two other Palestinians — journalist Hassan Abd al-Jawad and unionist Ali Abu Hilal who were detained and slated for deportation a month ago. In his reply to the three detainees' high court order *nisi*, the prosecutor alleged that the decision to deport anyone is taken after careful consideration and that all other means have failed to stop the activities of the three. The court session was requested by the three in an attempt to cancel the deportation order.

Beit Safafa residents demonstrate against a dangerous Israeli railway in the village.

Beit Safafa Demands Removal of Hazardous Railway

Hundreds of residents of Beit Safafa, south of Jerusalem, took part in a mass demonstration December 2 against Israeli negligence towards the dangers created by a railway train passing through the Arab village. The train has claimed the lives of several Beit Safafa residents.

A statement distributed during the demonstration by a committee of Beit Safafa residents demanded that the railway line be moved out of the village. The statement further invited that the Israeli authorities install an automatic fence, traffic lights and warning bells, and that the drivers be ordered to reduce speed and use their horns when approaching the vicinity of the village. The statement said drivers who do not obey such orders should be prosecuted.

Several Israelis joined the demonstrators to denounce the position of the Israeli Ministry of Transportation and the West Jerusalem municipality of Teddy Kollek. A member of the Israeli *Ratz* movement asked whether the ministry which protested that an automatic fence would be costly considers the amount of US$20,000 more valuable than the lives of the people.

The railway line passes through a heavily populated area of Beit Safafa. It crosses the road that links the two sides of the village which is used by residents in the southern half to reach Jerusalem.

Advocate Ibrahim Elayan, head of the committee, expressed Beit Safafa's determination to use all means to safeguard the lives of the villagers. He said that 15 incidents have already occurred leading to the death of six persons and the injury of 10 others.

Golanis Urge UN Poor Conditions to Investigate

The Arab population of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights called upon the United Nations to send a commissionof inquiry to investigate the intolerable conditions under which the Golan Arabs are living.

A letter dated December 2 was sent to the Secretary-General of the UN. The letter called upon the international community to act immediately and to pass laws to help lift the 'injustice, suppression and oppression' from which they suffer.

The letter listed some of the oppressive measures, first among them the problem of income tax. The letter indicated that tax collectors have raided homes and commercial businesses, confiscating furniture and agricultural equipment. They have also opened fire on people who refused to obey orders and imprisoned those who even dared to ask why such measures were being taken against them, the letter said.

The tax authorities, it went on to say, have been imposing astronomical amounts of taxes on the population which they are unable to pay. The letter stated that the merchants are not allowed to export their products to the Arab markets or to the world markets.

Health and education are two other main points of grievance, the letter said. The condition of health has rapidly deteriorated due to lack of medical services and medical centers. Very high medical insurance fees are imposed on the people while medical treatment fees at Israeli hospitals are too high to be tolerated by most, said the letter.

The letter also spoke of what it called 'the illiteracy policy of the occupation.' The letter indicated that the Israeli authorities have been imposing special cultural programs of their own in the schools. Unqualified teachers are forcefully appointed to teach in the schools while well-qualified teachers are being fired from their posts, said the document. Students in the Golan Heights are not allowed to go to Syrian universities.

The letter also stated that the social institutions created by the occupation authorities are being forcefully set up in the area to serve the occupying power. Those include municipal and local councils that are appointed by the Israeli authorities and are opposed by the local population. Public and local bodies that are accepted by the people are not allowed in the area.

The Syrian Arab Golan Heights, home to nearly 20,000 people, fell to the Israeli occupation in June, 1967. The Israeli Knesset, however, passed legislation on December 14, 1981, annexing the Golan to Israel. This was opposed by the Arab population there, who refuse to carry Israeli identity cards.

Murphy Meets Palestinians in Final Leg of Mideast Tour

Nine Palestinian figures from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza met December 4 with US Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs, Richard Murphy.

The nine were: Hanna Siniora, Responsible-Editor of *Al Fajr* newspaper and appointed member of a proposed joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation; Mustafa Natshe, acting mayor of Hebron who was dismissed by the Israeli 'civil administration' in 1982; Rashad Shawwa, mayor of Gaza who was also dismissed from office by the Israelis in '82; Mahmoud Abu Zuluf, publisher of the East Jerusalem *Al Quds* Arabic daily; Elias Freij, mayor of Bethlehem; Thafer al-Masri, head of the Nablus Chamber of Commerce; Basel Kana'an, a Nablus businessman; Izz al-Din Ariyan, head of the West Bank Red Crescent Society; and Dr. Awad Mahmoud, from Tulkarm.

No details on the meeting were given. However, Siniora said Murphy exchanged views with the Palestinian figures over the Middle East peace process. Murphy also briefed the Palestinians on last month's summit meeting between the US and USSR leaders in Geneva.

US State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb acknowledged that the meeting took place. Briefing reporters in Washington, Kalb called the meeting "routine". He cautioned reporters "against reading any new developments into this meeting," saying that it was not the first meeting Murphy held with Palestinians "and undoubtedly [there] will [be more meetings] in the future."

Kalb added that Murphy exchanged views with the Palestinians on a variety of issues and discussed with them the Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting.

Freij called the meeting "useful" while Siniora commented that the breakfast they had with Murphy was "delicious." The meeting was actually a gathering over breakfast at the West Jerusalem American Consulate. It was reportedly initiated by acting Consul-General Douglas Keene.

Assistant Secretary of State Murphy arrived in Israel December 3. He was touring Middle Eastern countries that included Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, in addition to Israel. This is Murphy's second trip to Israel in less than one month. Murphy arrived in Israel immediately following the conclusion of the Geneva summit meeting to brief Israeli officials on the outcome of the summit. He then travelled to other Middle Eastern Arab countries.

While on his second visit to Israel after the summit meeting, Murphy met Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and discussed developments in the peace process. Press reports here said that Murphy emphasized to Peres that Jordan is committed to the peace process and so is the US. The reports said Murphy and Peres agreed to continue efforts to reach "direct Israeli-Arab negotiations within the framework of an international forum."

Present at the 90 minute breakfast meeting at the American Consulate were Watt Cluverius, special US Envoy to the Middle East; Thomas Pickering, US ambassador to Israel; John Covey, an assistant to Murphy; and Keene. This is the second meeting this year between Murphy and a Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories.

Murphy's trip to the Middle East comes in light of intensified American involvement in finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The US has been pressing for direct talks between Israel and Jordan in order to overcome the impasse in the peace process. This would require ruling out the Palestine Liberation Organization with which Israel refuses to sit and talk. The US and Israel have agreed to Palestinian participation in possible talks with Jordan. They, however, stated as a condition that the Palestinians should not be members of the PLO.

Some Palestinian observers have noted that Murphy's talks with West Bank and Gaza figures could serve as a prelude to finding a Palestinian representation outside the PLO acceptable to both Israel and the US. Neverthless, the Palestinian figures that met with Murphy have regularly emphasized the role of the PLO in any peace talks as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In other similar meetings, a British envoy toured three Middle Eastern countries in the past two weeks reportedly "acquainting himself with the Middle East situation."

Sir David Myers, former British ambassador to Beirut for two years, visited Syria, Jordan and Israel where he discussed with officials issues related to the Middle East problem. Myers, who is now appointed undersecretary in the British Foreign Office responsible for Middle East affairs, met December 3 while in Israel with a six-man Palestinian delegation from the West Bank and Gaza who shared with him their views on the Middle East situation.

The informal meeting was arranged by and took place at the East Jerusalem British Consulate. The Palestinian figures present at the meeting were: Hanna Siniora; Ibrahim Matar, an agro-economist; Ibrahim Tawil, mayor of al-Bireh who was dismissed by the Israeli military government in 1982; Ibrahim Qaraeen, co-owner of the Palestine Press Service in East Jerusalem; Zuhair Rayes, a prominent Gaza lawyer and co-publisher of *Al Mawqif* newspaper; and Fayez Qawasmeh, a Hebron businessman and brother of the late PLO Executive Committee member Fahd Qawasmeh.

According to Siniora and Matar, the meeting addressed the situation in the Middle East. They said they exchanged views with Myers over how to solve the Palestine question.

This is Myers' first visit to this area. British Consulate officials told *Al Fajr*, Myers' visit here has nothing to do with a proposed visit to this area by the British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Timothy Renton. Renton is expected in Israel the middle of this month. He is expected to meet with West Bank and Gaza Palestinians while visiting this area.

It is not known yet if Renton's proposed visit has anything to do with British steps to give a push to the peace process particularly following the aborted meeting in October between British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation comprised of PLO members.

The Dawn
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Anti-Arab Violence Let Loose in US

Last October two Americans were killed as a result of terrorist actions – one in California, the other in the Middle East. Yet in the land where 'all men are created equal' there was no equality in the treatment of their deaths.

The killing of Leon Klinghoffer, an American Jew, was featured in the US print and electronic media for weeks. The killing of Alex Odeh, an Arab-American whose office in California was bombed, was given only cursory coverage. For Arab-Americans, the difference in official reaction and media coverage is par for the course. In fact, discrimination against Arabs was the catalyst behind the establishment of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee back in 1980. Odeh was a regional director for ADC at the time of his death.

As ADC has grown in size and effectiveness, it has become a target of violent anti-Arab attacks. A bomb was planted in ADC's Boston office last August. Odeh was blown up in California as he opened the door to the ADC Santa Ana headquarters. And just this week ADC's national office in Washington was arsoned. One employee barely escaped with her life.

Threats are commonplace against ADC, other Arab-American organizations and Arab-Americans in general.

Despite this, the US government and the media have practically turned a deaf ear to the threats except for very lax coverage of the incidents. The government agencies have been most lax in protecting and defending Arab-Americans from bodily harm.

The reasons of this apathy are many. The anti-Arab atmosphere has been fueled for years. Arabs are depicted as greedy, unattractive and backward, Jews are seen as creative, industrious and intelligent. Hollywood film producers and Fifth Avenue image makers have made a major contribution to the distortion of the Arab image.

For a long time these image makers have felt immune from criticism. This is largely due to an ineffective Arab-American lobbying effort. But today, with Arab-Americans beginning to pull their act together, there is still no evidance that the media is listening. Anti-Arab cartoons, headlines and reports still abound in major US newspapers and on the TV screen.

To a large extent this is the issue. Arab-American support for Palestinian nationalism automatically puts them on the unwanted and undesirable list. Liberals do not touch such issues with a 10-foot pole. This leaves extremist groups like the JDL free reign to terrorize innocent civilians. Arab Americans want such terrorism stopped!

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Partition Supporters Naive, Ignorant of Zionist Aims

by Awad Abdel Fattah

Thirty eight years have passed since the partition plan was passed in the UN and since the creation of Israel, and the right of the Palestinian people to a state of their own proposed in this UN plan is still denied by the means of armed force. The Zionist movement, which hurried to accept the plan, has spared no effort not only to prevent the Palestinians from achieving their national right to self-determination, but even to exterminate the Arab presence in Palestine. This was seen in the massacres, such as Deir Yassin, which were committed by the Zionist organizations shortly before 1948 and which instigated the flight and the forcing out of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

The Zionist establishment and its propagandist institutions have succeeded also in the West Bank to distort the facts with regard to the reason behind the rejection by the Palestinian people of the partition plan.

No doubt the passage of the partition plan was viewed by the Palestinian people as unjust and to many came as a shock. The plan equated the right of the Palestinian people to the so-called 'right' of the Jewish settlers in Palestine. In other words, the plan put on the same level a foreign colonialist movement which has deceived the Jews and an indigenous people. This is besides the fact that the way Palestine was partitioned was also unjust, as most of the fertile land was given to the Zionists while the mountainous area was designated for the Palestinians.

Some say that the Palestinians should have accepted the partition plan because they compare the situation of the Palestinians at that time with the present. But this is naive and shows ignorance of the nature of the Zionist movement and its real stand toward the partition. Even if the Palestinians had accepted the partition, their state would have never seen the light of day because the Zionists, who were backed by the imperialist forces and better organized and armed, were determined to take over all of Palestine and prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state. The acceptance of the partition plan was merely a tactic they used at the time.

Once Yasser Arafat was asked by foreign journalists, "Why didn't you accept the partition?" He answered by giving the well-known story of King Solomon who was asked by two women both claiming to be the mother of one baby to rule to whom the baby belonged. When Solomon suggested dividing the baby in two, the real mother immediately forfeited her right to the baby out of love for it. As in Palestine, the real owner of the country refused to have his body divided in two. For the false owner, who had no right to the country in the first place, whatever he got was good.

The Palestinians have lived continuously in Palestine for centuries. They struck roots in this country and their relationship to it has become part of their history and culture like any other people in the world. This is why the Palestinians strongly opposed Zionist schemes from the very beginning. Their opposition became stronger when the schemes started to be implemented since their interests were directly harmed.

Jewish settlers began to flood into Palestine and take over Palestinian land with the complicity and cooperation of the British occupation authorities. With time, as the Zionist colonialist project went ahead, the indigenous people of Palestine came to realize more and more the danger to their very existence. This forced them to use all possible means, including military struggle, to stop it. But since the idea of establishing a Jewish state in Palestine was an imperialist project before it was a Zionist one, the Palestinians failed to put an end to it.

The British imperialists were the ones who gave all support for the project because it was in their own interest to do so. However, in the course of the struggle against the Zionist-imperialist plan in Palestine, a joint Arab-Jewish struggle developed whose purpose was to establish a democratic Palestinian state in which Jews and Arabs would live together on the basis of full equality. This was the most practical and just solution to the Palestinian problem. Also, the Palestinian National League, a progressive organization which was established in 1943, struggled towards this solution. The national liberation league explained the dangers of the partition plan. On the one hand, the Jewish settlers didn't have the right to self-determination and, on the other hand, the proposed Jewish state would be a base for the imperialist forces through which they could ensure the continued control of the Arab peoples and prevent them from achieving their real independence and social development. This is the response of sophisticated national organizations.

On the level of the masses, the response to the partition was stronger. They were involved in resistance actions, defying the local semi-feudal leadership which was unwilling to wage uncompromising struggle against the imperialist forces and the conspiracy against Palestine. They could not give legitimacy to the Zionist project by accepting the partition plan. They could not give part of their own body to an aggressive and reactionary colonialist movement which was, and still is, led by imperialist forces. Palestinians, contrary to Zionists, have always proposed to have all people in Palestine including Jews, live together in real equality without Zionism and racism.

The fear of the Palestinians about the Zionist state has materialized. Israel, throughout its history, has proven to be a dangerous state which constitutes a threat not only to the Palestinian and Arab people, but even to international peace. Its aggressive and expansionist nature has been seen in the occupation of the rest of Palestine and territories of other Arab countries, the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homeland, the destruction of hundreds of Palestinian villages, the confiscation of land, the suppression of the people including the deportation of some, and the treatment of the remaining Palestinians within the 1948 and 1967 borders as second or even third class citizens.

On the international level, Israel has been playing a role of saboteur in many countries in the world and it takes part in the policy of oppression against peoples who struggle for democracy and social progress against their dictatorial regimes. It is no longer a secret that Israel provides training and arms in large quantities to the ruling dictatorships in Latin America. Whoever distinguishes between the practices of Israel and Zionism in fact intends to mislead the people and defend Zionism.

Palestinians before 1948 were right in their assessment of Zionism and knew that it was an aggressive and reactionary force. The claim of the Zionists about solving the 'problem' of the Jews in the world is mere hypocrisy. On the contrary, they complicated it. First, the Jews who were deceived by the Zionist movement and came to Palestine are now used as fuel in Israel's expansionist wars against Arabs. Second, nearly 75 percent of what they call the "Jewish nation" refuse to come to Palestine because they see the countries they live in as their homelands. This is besides the fact that many Jews left Israel after they discovered they were deceived. This is why not only Arabs and foreign progressive figures, but also progressive Jews, have decided that the only solution to the

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AL FAJR invites our readers to contribute letters, articles and opinions. Contributions must be signed, but names may be withheld upon request.

A Palestinian 'Independent' Discouraged by Leadership

by Ibrahim Rizk

Today, Palestinians want a newspaper that blends critical journalism, investigative reporting and a democratic sampling of our people's opinions and points of view in reporting news, events, trends and developments. The opinion of Ibrahim Dakkak and the article "West Bank Analysts Re-assess PLO Strategy" in *Al Fajr* November 1 was a fresh beginning in critical journalism. Palestinians are not interested in newspapers that are a mouthpiece of this or that faction, this or that leader.

There is an independent silent – concerned, frustrated and potentially active – majority that is waiting in the wings for a new, dynamic, visionary and efficient Palestinian leadership. Our mistake-ridden present leadership – all factions – have failed the Palestinian people. Arafat, Habash, Hawatmeh and the others ought to be held responsible for their shortcomings (some believe treachery), incompetence, mass ignorance and confusion. As Ibrahim Dakkak said, "The leadership must return to the masses to inspire its conscience, interest and right," and I add organize the people along democratic lines where the most competent leads. There is no room in a revolution for sedentary bureaucrats, corrupt sycophants and diplomats with an inordinate appetite for the good life.

Let's raise only five questions today (even though they are only the tip of the iceberg) as to why many Palestinians don't have confidence and trust in the present leadership. The lack of answers and corrective measures to these critical questions have convinced us independents that the present leadership (all factions) must be replaced by a credible, serious, efficient leadership with a clear strategy and a plan of action.

First, what were the reasons of our debacle and demise in Lebanon in '82? To counter that the Arab regimes betrayed us (they always do), or that the Israeli army is invincible, or that the objective conditions were lacking (I think I heard this before in 1970) are but another excuse of the old leadership to cover up their blunders, and rationalize their shortcomings and failures. The main contributing factor of our debacle was the absence of contingency plans, disastrous planning of our political and military command, and erroneous analysis of forces in the area. It is always a good idea when one stops to analyse his weaknesses, before pointing his finger all around (even though there is a lot of finger pointing that could be done).

Second, how can the old leadership explain their total failure in organizing our people and activating the West Bank, Gaza and Palestine proper by transferring the struggle to the interior? There are no excuses please!

Third, how can the leadership explain their total failure in organizing our people in trans-Jordan (over 1.5 million)? Hussein's secret police are good, but the lack of action on the part of our leadership is part of the reason.

Fourth, here comes the 100 million dollar question. Are Hussein, Mubarak, Assad, Saddam, Berri or Jumblatt and the rest of the self-serving players in the Mid-East our allies or enemies? Arafat and the rest of the Palestinian leadership have changed so many bed partners that the Palestinian people are confused, unsure and divided about who is who!

To counter that all this (changing partners) was done to improve the tactical position of the Palestinian people is a mendacious myth. It seems that the only gain is Arafat's personal gain, namely to stay in power, because the accumulative effect of Arafat's (the rest of the leaders too) acrobatics and promiscuity have been a net loss for the Palestinian people.

Fifth, how is the budget of the Palestinian revolution managed? Are we plagued by favoritism, nepotism, and gross mismanagement? Are our priorities inverted? *Al Fajr* can research this (as a public service) for its readers.

The heroic struggling Palestinian people deserve better! We demand a better leadership! A leadership that solves problems instead of compiling them. The Palestinian people are tired of capitulationist solutions such as the Damascus agreement (after the massacre of our people in the Beirut camps in '85 by Assad and Berri) or the Amman agreement.

The Palestinian people will struggle for as many years as it takes for an honorable, just resolution of our national problem. Our children will not tolerate a pax-Americana, Israeli or Jordanian nation that will be imposed upon them, and enslave them and their children's children. Palestine does not belong to Arafat or anybody else; it belongs to its people (today and in the future). So let's not surrender today just because we are weak and badly led. Our children will never forgive us!

Today, the independent Palestinian is speaking and he wants to be heard. We can achieve victory, but not before we cleanse ourselves, go through the painful process of introspection and self-criticism, and confidently move on the genuine revolutionary path. ■

Ibrahim Rizk is a Palestinian residing in the US

UN Resolution 242 Illconceived

by Dr. Haidar Abd al-Shafi

UN Resolution 242 is one of the most ill-advised resolutions adopted by the United Nations. It is an obvious example of how far one can go in appeasing and accommodating force and intransigence at the expense of reason and justice.

It is well known that the war of 1967 was an act of aggression initiated by Israel before exhausting all attempts for a peaceful solution to the impasse that suddenly developed at the time. It was the intransigent American-Israeli stand in the UN that aborted all attempts at adopting a logical and realistic resolution denouncing aggression and addressing itself directly to the underlying problem. The fact that the resolution was adopted with a clear majority does not give it any special importance, in spite of its inadequacy. It only reflects the ingrained weaknesses of the UN as an instrument for preserving peace and promoting justice.

UN 242 Accommodates force at the expense of reason and justice.

Dr. Haidar Abd al-Shafi

We Palestinians have strong reasons not to accept Resolution 242. First, it fails to address itself to the basic issue which is the Palestinian right to self-determination. This includes their own independent state on Palestinian soil. Second, there is no mention of the right of the Palestinian refugees to return. Third, it neglects the right of the Palestinian people to wage continued struggle for realizing these basic and innate rights. It is noticeable that the word Palestine is nowhere to be found in the text of the resolution.

Finally, the text of the resolution is pregnant with ambiguity and equivocation. Even when it refers to basic principles it does so in an apologetic and reluctant manner. As Palestinians we want our rights addressed frankly and openly. We are not apologetic of our people and our just demands; neither should the UN be. Thus, we cannot accept UN Resolution 242. ■

Dr. Haidar Abd al-Shafi is the head of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Gaza.

A Palestinian Look at JTV

The King and His Royal Court on Jordan TV

by Baher Ashhab

American television viewers complain that they have too much sex and violence on the screen. But we have King Hussein.

This is the reality of television in Palestine. Either we must watch Syria, Jordan or Israel — none of them home-grown — and by far the most observed is Jordan. For Palestinian observers of the media, something is wrong with TV.

Television as a commercial enterprise is seen by many to have failed as a communicator of information, education and 'pure' entertainment. Commercial television is meant to sell products; state-run television is meant to sell governments. In the West the higher the rate of sex and violence in a given program, the better the sale. Here the more King Hussein is shown on television, the better the chances that his policies will be accepted, or that is what JTV (Jordan Television) thinks.

News Jordanian Style

Nearly 35 percent of JTV's nightly broadcast is news, or news-related programs. This indicates that news is given top priority. But what is the news that JTV offers?

According to JTV, the most important news item every night is the king himself. His is always the top story. He precedes news of deadly volcanos, bloody massacres, historical summits, star wars and Halley's comet. And when the king delivers a speech, you can forget about all of the above plus the following program or two. The speech telecast more than once in its entirety will pre-empt the other programs.

Once the top story is over there are usually the following news items: Prince Hassan and his daily activities, the prime minister and his prolonged sessions with the Jordanian parliament; minister so-and-so; army chief of staff so-and-so; and the weather report.

One cannot question the necessity of the weather report to the viewer, but one can question whether or not events other than what goes on in the king's palace and in the governmental circles that may be of interest to people should be reported.

The JTV viewer is told only what he sees on the screen. Description of events thus replaces investigative reporting. So if the king is receiving a visiting dignitary, the viewer is told that the king is now shaking hands with the man, dining with him, etc. and that he is discussing mutual subjects of interest with him. But what these subjects of interest are, the viewer will never know — unless he turns to Israel TV. Are there no car accidents in Jordan, mud slides, unique personal accomplishments, happy occasions, crimes, scandals? Is there nothing that would identify the viewer with his country other than King Hussein?

Palestinians who have not visited Jordan view Jordanians as people who gather in flocks to clap for Hussein, as beduins who carry out a desert dance for him. Those of us who are old enough to remember the pre-1967 days in the West Bank know that such scenes are fake. In those days, soldiers used to gather school children and passersby lining them up along the street to clap while the king's motorcade passed by.

Maybe Palestinian journalists could suggest a story or two. A good news report on JTV could be whatever happened to those 21 Palestinian deportees who were trucked to Jordan last September. Eighteen of them were former political detainees and were released last May under conditions that made it impossible for them to reach the West Bank media. Wouldn't it be nice to hear from them on JTV?

According to reports coming from Amman, most of them are kept in hotel rooms and are not free to move about. They are awaiting the time when they can say what they could not while in Israeli jails, but will JTV ever visit them? Hassan Abd al-Jawad, a Palestinian journalist, is expected to be deported. If deported, will he ever be given the opportunity to speak out in Jordan, through JTV? These are the kind of topics that people in the West Bank want to hear. These are the kind of items that would be of daily concern to Jordanians and whoever else in the area cares about the Middle East crisis.

Left in the Dark

There are some who argue that the *status quo* of JTV is predictable and not worth fretting about. An absolute monarch like King Hussein can only be expected to use his own media to his own interest. The stakes, however, are too high not to worry about. Not only does JTV leave people in the dark about local and Middle Eastern affairs, but turns them to Israel TV for information about themselves.

There are stories, however, about JTV reporters and officials who stray off the beaten path of 'optimistic' reports on the king and his government. A young news reporter once took the initiative to report on something of concern to the local Amman population. He had learned of a citizen's complaint that a major road recently constructed was showing signs of deterioration. When he went to investigate, he found out that the construction crew had dug up the road and then left it for two consecutive winters. They then paved it without concern for the effects of rain on the underlayers of the road. Two weeks after construction had finished, several dangerous-looking potholes made it a hard road to navigate. The reporter spoke to several eyewitnesses and reported that the Interior Ministry could have surely done a better job. The young man was transferred to radio within 24 hours. News later leaked that the interior minister had phoned the minister of information and suggested that the young man be 'transferred'.

This story occurred in the late 60s. Yet this other, more recent, event sheds more light on the restrictions on television imposed by the king. Lila Sharaf, the minister of information, (not the same as above), herself resigned earlier this year. She apparently could not go along with the king's information policies. "I am unwilling to carry out an information mission that is not directed at the general welfare of this country and its people," she told Hussein. A few days earlier, the king had publicly instructed his prime minister to "keep a closer watch on the local media while keeping the welfare of the people in mind."

Why Watch the News?

The other 65 percent of JTV broadcast is divided between locally produced programs (15 percent), education (another 15 percent) and entertainment. So the choice is broad. But then is it?

The local and education programs are usually shown prior to the 8 o'clock news. They are shown on the Arabic language channel. Prior to 8 o'clock, people usually turn to Israel TV to watch news, variety and foreign programs. Or else they turn to the JTV foreign language channel where they watch French films or variety shows. Much of these local programs are a waste of film for Palestinians. Not because people do not value local programs, but because these local programs often remind one of King Hussein and his government. What might have been a useful agricultural program that is directed to the large agricultural sector of Jordan and the West Bank often turns into mere praise of the works of the Ministry of Agriculture. Other programs are usually small-budgeted and are either too lengthy or unfocused to attract the attention span of viewers.

Since JTV relies heavily on government budgets and less on advertisements, it cannot produce highly refined local programs. It instead spends a large portion of its budget on foreign television products. West Bank TV watchers are known to value these products and spend as much as five hours per night watching them.

A recent Israeli propaganda pamphlet boasted that Israeli occupation had lifted the standard of living in the occupied territories. It pointed out that 86 percent of West Bankers now own television sets. "This has helped in providing them with a window on the world, especially for women who are traditionally confined to the home," the pamphlet said. But for most of those 86 percent JTV is their window on the world and it is primarily a window on the West, only another form of neo-colonialism.

When America cheered for J.R., Palestinians did, too. Americans, however, have millions of J.R.s walking around. Palestinians do not. While three people — two women and a man — can live together in the West, Jordanians are prohibited even to date in public. Yet they feverishly watch "Three's Company" often wondering why we can't be like that, too. Or else they say look at that decadent West. For some of us who have been to the West and were exposed to the large amount of talented, artistic television products that exist, we often have to bite our fingers because of the cheap quality programs that we get exposed to on JTV. We do understand that JTV has a low budget, but we also know that those who buy these programs know little about good entertainment. Yet such bad entertainment may seem to some as a better alternative to royal news.

Wait yet. JTV offers a variety of Arabic language movies, soap operas and cultural programs from the Arab world. What a relief. No, what a disaster. These programs are almost entirely from the Egyptian movie and television market. Again they are extremely low budgeted,

Continued on page 15

1947 UN Partition Plan

Should We Have Accepted A Slice of Palestine?

by Maher Abukhater

Now 38 years have passed since the United Nations General Assembly passed its 181(II) Resolution on November 29, 1947, calling for the partition of Palestine into two states — one Arab and the other Jewish. And for 38 years, Palestinians have been asking themselves whether or not they did the right thing in rejecting the partition proposal.

The general feeling among the Palestinians today is that their rejection of the partition plan was and remains justified. "It never entered my mind to accept the partition," said Anwar Nusseibeh, a Palestinian lawyer and former defense minister in Jordan. "I was not prepared to give up any part of my land, particularly since I had strong feelings that Arab-Jewish coexistence was possible without any need for partition."

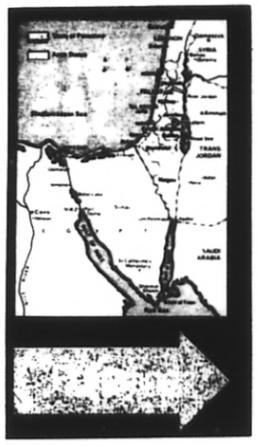
But does Nusseibeh still feel the same way after 38 years during which all of Palestine has been lost? Yes, he answers. 'Even if we accepted the partition plan, the Zionist movement would not have been satisfied with the partition and would have tried anyhow to expand at our expense," Nusseibeh explains.

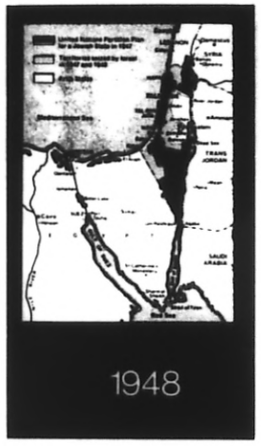
"Time has proven this," he said. "When Israel joined the United Nations, the General Assembly conditioned that Israel should accept all its resolutions on Palestine; but so far it has not imple*mented any of them.*"

However, Nusseibeh's opinion does not reflect that of every Palestinian. Emil Habibi, editor of *Al Ittihad* Arabic daily, a Haifa-based organ of the Israeli Communist Party, was among those who felt the Palestinians should have accepted the partition plan.

"We called for immediate action to avert the conspiracy being woven by the imperialists in cooperation with the Zionist leadership and the ruling reactionary Arab governments," Habibi said. "We called for accepting the UN partition resolution even though it was unfair to the Palestinian people."

This 'conspiracy' Habibi speaks about was a British 'scheme' in which Arab residents of Palestine would be relocated to neighboring Arab countries





while the Arab Jews would be transferred to Palestine to establish a Jewish state. According to Habibi, who was then a member of the National Liberation League, a Communist movement, "It was impossible to avert the conspiracy and disaster which was to follow, in light of the existing situation in the region, without agreeing to the partition plan."

Therefore, he said, his party decided to accept the partition plan in order to guarantee that a Palestinian state would be established on at least part of the Palestinian territories. This, he said, would have been the base from where the Palestinians would have launched their battle against Zionist and imperialist schemes in the area.

"We saw what was being plotted," Habibi said. "We warned the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinians, Arab and international public opinion. We told them in detail about what could happen. We warned the Arab armies that entered Palestine. We told them their governments sent them to Palestine not to liberate it but to stop a Palestinian state from being established. We told them about a conspiracy being woven between the imperialists and Zionists to pave the road for Zionist expansion, which is exactly what ensued. We warned against expulsion of the Arab residents which the Zionists were very active in doing in cooperation with the British army and some of the ruling Arab regimes."

The UN, in its attempt to solve the problem of Jewish refugees in Europe, created another refugee problem in the Middle East.

It was therefore a grave mistake when the Palestinian Arabs rejected the partition plan, according to Habibi. For him, history has proven that the position of the National Liberation League was right.

Arab Conspiracy ?

For Habibi, the Arab regimes were part of the conspiracy against the Palestinian people. When the Arab countries sent in their armies, they stationed them only in the Arab areas as designated by the UN partition plan. This proved, according to him, that the Arabs did not want to establish an independent Palestinian state but wanted to annex the remaining Arab areas of Palestine.

"The slogan *macco awamer* (an Iraqi term for 'we have no orders') was famous at that time," said Habibi. "It was an expression meaning that the Arab armies were not allowed to touch the borders of the Jewish state. The armies would reach the borders and stop. When the people ask why they stopped, the answer would come *macco awamer.*"

The Arab regimes' so-called opposition to the partition plan, Habibi said, was only a maneuver and a cover-up for their real intentions. Their acquiescence and ineptness in handling the Palestinian crisis led to popular upheavals against many of them. Syria, Iraq and Egypt witnessed revolutions that changed their systems. Iraq and Egypt were transformed from monarchies to republics. In Jordan, the ruling king was assassinated but the monarchy survived.

Nusseibeh, on the other hand, feels the Arab armies tried their best to save Palestine. He said the Arab governments got involved in the Palestine issue at the request of the Palestinian people. The Arab governments, he said, were trying to do what they felt the Palestinian people wanted.

However, Nusseibeh and Habibi agreed that the Arab armies entered only the Arab-held areas of Palestine. Some Palestinians interpreted this move as meaning that the Arabs actually agreed to the partition plan and were prepared to adhere to the UN resolution on the plan.

Antranig Bakerjian, a Palestinian-Armenian intellectual who worked with Palestinian refugees for 33 years through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), feels that the Arab governments did not oppose the partition plan *per se*. He said the Arabs were only opposed to the legality of the UN discussing partitioning a territory it did not have jurisdiction over.

The Arab governments, Bakerjian said, asked that the International Court of Justice study the issue of UN jurisdiction before a vote was cast at the General Assembly. The Arab proposal was rejected and the UN ended up voting on the resolution calling for the partitioning of Palestine.

A typical family shelter in Balatta refugee camp.

Historical Background

The Palestine question was brought before the UN General Assembly early in 1947 when Britain requested that its 25-year-old mandate over Palestine be turned over to the UN. Britain had decided then that it was not capable any more of handling the anti-British sentiment in Palestine.

For the UN, the issue brought in front of it was not how to grant Palestine independence, as requested by the Palestinians and Arabs in general, but how to find a solution to the problem of Jews displaced by Nazi Germany during the Second World War. This was evident from the work of the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry of 1946 which recommended that 100,000 Jews be allowed to enter Palestine as part of the solution to the Displaced Persons of Europe.

When the United Nations formed its Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) in May 1947, the Arab Higher Committee in Palestine decided to boycott it on the grounds that the committee was planning on linking the question of Palestinian independence to the plight of Europe's Jews.

UNSCOP was the 19th committee appointed to consider the Palestinian question. It was made up of representatives of Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala; India; Iran, Holland, Peru, Sweden, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. The committee was authorized to conduct enquiries in Palestine and in any other place it deemed fit. It was this provision that worried the Arab Higher Committee which feared the Special Committee would visit the refugee camps in Europe and be influenced by what it saw.

UNSCOP arrived in Palestine on June 17, 1947, to conduct its enquiry. The Arab Higher Committee, which boycotted UNSCOP, held a popular conference in Jerusalem on July 6 in order to let UNSCOP hear its voice in an indirect way. The Palestinians made it clear that their boycott of the UN committee was based on the fact their rights in Palestine were not open for enquiry by any international committee, and, in accordance with the UN Charter, they should be recognized.

UNSCOP returned to the UN with a report on its findings based on its meeting with Jews and delegates of Arab countries. It also reported on its visit to refugee camps in Germany and Austria. However the UNSCOP report was not without division.

Two draft resolutions were submitted to the UN General Assembly in September 1947. One resolution, referred to as the majority plan, supported by seven members (Canada, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala, Netherlands, Peru, Sweden and Uruguay), recommended that Palestine be partitioned into two states but linked in an economic union, with Jerusalem as an international city.

The second resolution, called the minority resolution, received only three votes - India, Iran and Yugoslavia. This plan called for establishing an independent Palestine as a federate state with Jerusalem as its capital.

During the General Assembly regular session in September of the same year, it was decided to form an Ad Hoc Political Comittee made up of all member states of the UN to consider the UNSCOP report. The Ad Hoc committee established three subcommittees: (i) Subcommittee No 1 set up to study the majority plan; (ii) Subcommittee No 2 to consider the minority plan and a draft proposal by Saudi Arabia and Iraq on the legality of the UN considering partitioning of Palestine; and (iii) a Conciliation Group requested to find a common ground for coexistence between Arabs and Jews in Palestine.

The Subcommittee No. 2 report was first discussed by the Ad Hoc Political Committee on November 24. When it came to voting, the minority plan was defeated. At the same time, the Saudi-Iraqi draft was also defeated. The Conciliation Group also reported that it failed to find a compromise between Jews and Arabs which meant there was no hope for finding a solution acceptable to both sides.

The majority plan was passed at the Ad Hoc Committee voting on November 25, 1947. It did not get the two-thirds majority needed to pass a resolution as is the case for the General Assembly. The voting was as follows:

In favor: Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Byelorussian SSR, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Iceland, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Sweden, Ukrainian SSR, South Africa, USSR, USA, Uruguay and Venezuela. (25)

Against: Afghanistan, Cuba, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Siam, Syria, Turkey and Yemen. (13)

Abstaining: Argentina, Belgium, China, Colombia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia. (17)

Absent: Paraguay, Philippines

This vote was not enough at the General Assembly to get the two-thirds needed to validate any resolution. Before the General Assembly voted on the partition plan on November 29, several nations which showed opposition to it changed their vote to supporting it. This coercion of UN members was made evident in a speech by the Lebanese delegate who said:

"... To judge by the press reports which reach us regularly every two or three days, I can well imagine to what pressure, to what maneuvers your sense of justice, equity and democracy has been exposed during the last 36 hours... My friends, think of these democratic methods, of the freedom in voting which is sacred to each of our delegations. If we were to abandon this for the tyrannical system of tackling each delegation in hotel rooms, in bed, in corridors and ante-rooms, to threaten them with economic sanctions or to bribe them with promises in order to compel them to vote one way or another, think of what our Organization would become in the future."

The final vote was as follows:

In favor: Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, BSSR, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Liberia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Ukrainian SSR, South Africa, USSR, USA, Uruguay and Venezuela. (33)

Against: Afghanistan, Cuba, Egypt, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and Yemen. (13)

Abstained: Argentina, Chile, China, Colombia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Mexico, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia. (10)

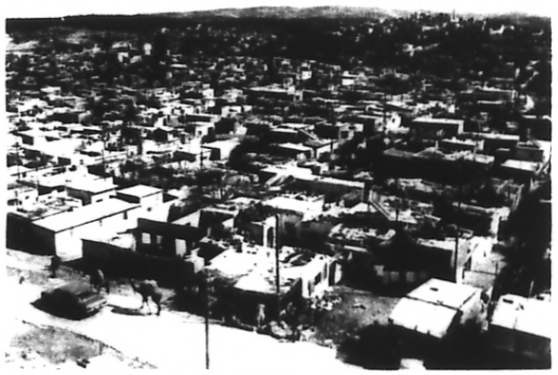
The UN resolution to partition Palestine, referred to as Resolution 181(II), did not end the violence in Palestine as writers of the partition plan where thinking. On the contrary, violence increased as Arab-Jewish hostilities reached a climax. The Arab Higher Committee called for a three-day strike in Palestine. Demonstrations broke out in the streets denouncing the partition. The Arab armies were sent to Palestine but remained in the Arab-held territories claiming they wanted to stop the Zionist expansion in Palestine.

The UN, in its attempt to solve the problem of Jewish refugees in Europe, created another refugee problem in the Middle East. More than one million Palestinians were reported to have fled their homes following an outbreak of hostilities in Palestine between Jews and Arabs. Massacres committed against Arabs — in Deir Yassin for example — increased Palestinian mass exodus.

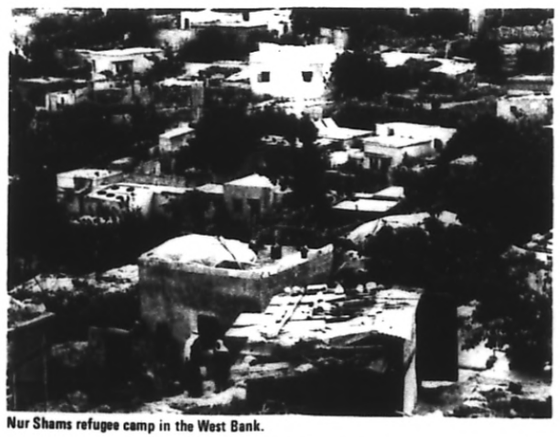
November 29 continues to be remembered among Palestinians as a 'black day' in Palestinian history. While it is too late after 38 years to argue over whether it was right or not to have rejected the plan in 1947, efforts continue to undo the injustice committed by the international community against the Palestinian people.

In 1977, the international community decided to consider November 29 of every year an international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. Conferences are held in many countries around the world aiming at informing the world community of the plight of the Palestinian people.

However, it is believed that a long time will pass before a just solution will be found to the Palestinian question which currently occupies a major share of the attention of the world. ■



An aerial view of ramshackle shelters in a Palestinian refugee camp.



Nur Shams refugee camp in the West Bank.

Dheisheh refugee camp on the Bethlehem-Hebron Road.

Palestinian State Crucial For Israel's Existence

A recent public opinion poll revealed that 30 percent of the Israeli Jewish public is in favor of the establishment of a Palestinian state in the occupied territories and another ten percent agrees with the idea in principle. The following article, published in *Kol Yerushalayim* on November 29, is representative of the political thinking of this constituency. The case for the establishment of a Palestinian state is put forward within the accepted parameters of Israeli political discourse wherein the yardstick for measuring all things is the question "Is it good for the Jews or bad for the Jews?" The author accepts the basic tenets of Zionism *a priori*, yet unlike the ideologues of the right — from Yitzhak Rabin to Meir Kahane — she avoids metaphysics and, perhaps more importantly, is not prepared to grant Israel *unconditional* legitimacy. Hence, she assumes the alternative to the establishment of a Palestinian state to be the transformation of Israel into an apartheid state or worse. At the same time, the author is not prepared to transcend the parochial national viewpoint of Zionist indoctrination and remains oblivious to its contradictions.

The same is true of the Zionist left at large, which in spite of its disillusionment with the direction that the state of Israel has taken over the past two decades, believes that there is a Zionist alternative. The following article is thus important in getting an idea of the outlook of the majority of the anti-fascist camp in Israel.

Translator

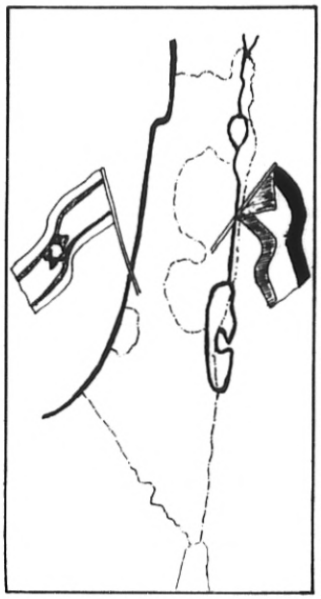
Don't Wait for a Telephone Call

by Ruth Gabizon

For many years I was convinced that the struggle for a Palestinian state was not my struggle. I believed that it was enough to stand firm against what we, the Israeli Jews, must not do if we are to preserve the moral basis of the Jewish state. The political solution of the Palestinian problem appeared to me to be a matter for the Palestinians.

FOR MANY YEARS I WAS CONVINCED THAT THE STRUGGLE FOR A PALESTINIAN STATE WAS NOT MY STRUGGLE.

Today, such a view seems shortsighted to me. Only a Palestinian state, or at the very least, an entity that appears to give expression to the national yearnings of the Palestinians, will allow for the long-term existence of the state of the Jewish people... [For] in my opinion, the Jewish state does not have a metaphysical-historical or religious-messianic justification beyond its justification as the expression of the Jews' aspirations for full self-determination, including national independence. Thus, the first condition for the existence of Israel as a Jewish state is the continued maintenance of a massive Jewish majority which desires such a national existence. In order to ensure a Jewish majority, it is legitimate to control the granting of



citizenship and permanent residence in Israel on the basis of national affiliation. Such control does not necessarily imply that citizenship or residence in Israel will be restricted to Jews, but it does fit in with the Law of Return which grants Jews preference...

In order to ensure a majority, it is *not legitimate* to expel the non-Jews living in Israel or strip them of their rights. The state of the Jewish nation *must* be one of full and true civil equality for all its citizens, Jews and non-Jews alike.

This analysis leads to two practical extrapolations in the present situation. The first is that the claim of sovereignty over the predominantly Arab territories held by us since 1967 should be abandoned forthwith, without a moment's hesitation. At the same time, the settlements, which were set up to this end, should not be supported either materially or spiritually. We will not be able to absorb the non-Jewish residents of these territories among us without losing our character as a democratic state with full equal rights for all citizens. The tension that will arise will produce pressure for expulsions and it will not always be possible to be immune, or sane enough to prevent such measures. If there is a massive expulsion of non-Jews there, the state of the Jewish nation will be morally defective in an irreversible way. If there isn't a mass-expulsion, there will be no choice but to pursue a policy of segregation and the systematic violation of civil rights. Such a situation, which exists in South Africa, is both immoral and unstable.

Thus, the dissimulating rhetoric of the settlers, who claim that the government doesn't have the authority to withdraw from the territories and call for disobedience and rebellion if such a decision is taken, is extremely dangerous. If in order to do the only thing that can help us we chance a civil war, we may not be able to pay the price and will thus be forced to put our political existence in the region in actual danger.

Second, we must not be passive in regard to the political fate of the territories and the people living there. Our right to national self-determination on moral grounds depends on our willingness to recognize that other peoples have the same right. The only solution that can guarantee stability both for Israel and the Israeli Arabs is a Palestinian national home.

Only in a situation of two national states living side by side can we fully and honestly call on the Israeli Arabs to choose between full national existence in their own country or civil loyalty to Israel. Only in a situation of two national states will the Palestinians have something to lose and an interest in building their national future instead of waging a violent struggle against their various enemies that are preventing them from doing so. Only in a situation of two national states will it finally be possible to distinguish between the battle against terrorism and national oppression, between racism and isolationism. And finally, only in a situation of two national states living side by side in peace and mutual respect will we arrive at a situation in which Jews, as private individuals, can safely settle in all areas of the Land of Israel.

There was a time when I thought such an outlook was based solely on moral grounds and that history could reveal that the existence of a Greater State of Israel was possible, even at the great moral cost of massive expulsions of non-Jews or their systematic national repression. I was skeptical about my ability to convince people who didn't share my value-system. Today, I believe that my moral claims also apply to the reality [on the ground]. To ignore the demand for Palestinian national self-determination is both hopeless and futile. The sooner we accept this, the better we'll be able to exploit the cards in our hands...

A Palestinian state is not part of my hectic public schedule as a Jew living in Israel. It is first and foremost the problem of the Palestinians themselves. Without a doubt, they do not always do the things that further the [establishment of their] state in the best way. On the other hand, those who say Israel has a legitimate interest in what happens in the area are surely correct. A Palestinian state alongside Israel is in our interest. Not the state of Jordan, for that won't solve the Palestinian problem. Rather, it must be an entity which expresses Palestinian self-determination. We would do well to remember this. (Translation: Ruth Gabizon, Kol Yerushalayim, November 29, 1985). ■

An Interview with Professor Leibowitz

Professor Yishayahu Leibowitz has been an outspoken critic of the Israeli occupation since 1967. The following interview took place at the time of the public controversy over calls to prepare for civil war — from both the right and the left — at the beginning of December.

Q: Responding to the claim that the settlers are inciting to rebellion, some of the representatives of the right have claimed that "Leibowitz is also inciting." It seems they're referring to your call to refuse to serve in the occupied territories and in Lebanon. Do you see any room for comparison?

A: You can call it a call to rebellion. But if you mean my call to refuse to serve [in the occupied territories], it's not a call to take up arms but exactly the opposite. However, I'm also calling on all the anti-fascists to store arms — as the other side is doing. I never once said "rebellion". But we must store arms so that we can be prepared. Of course, I'm quite willing to take up arms myself. I served in the army and I'm not a pacifist. But in the meantime, the Left is acting like a beaten dog and what happened to the Social Democrats [in Germany] may happen here.

Q: Don't you care that formulas are being quoted at present to give the opposite side legitimacy?

A: So what can I do? They say it's the same thing and I say it's exactly the opposite. The only thing I know is that I'm not prepared to grant legitimacy to Nazis — even if they're Jews.

Q: In principle, there's no difference between you and them: both of you put values above the law. Who, if not you, ought to understand extremism?

A: Whoever isn't a fascist puts values above the state. The only question is, which values? I don't respect extremism. I understand my extremism and want to destroy the extremism of the other side. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: "Good men shouldn't obey the laws of the state with excess devotion."

Q: Do you draw an absolute distinction between good and evil from that?

A: That's correct. For me, they're evil because they support everything that's invalid and defiled, and that they're willing to sacrifice themselves for it only makes it worse, for they're prepared to die for evil ends.

Q: At times it seems you exploit your special standing as a recognized *enfant terrible*. Did you ever think that expressions such as those you've used here could bring you to court?

A: Have you ever considered if I care what's said about me? It would appear you really don't know me. So understand that they and what they think doesn't interest me. What special position do I have? Let them charge me for all I care. I'm only repeating what I've been saying for the past 17 years — that there's a fascist movement in Israel that serves as the vanguard of the official policy of the state of Israel. And that's why the gangs threatening to use violence have received the protection of the authorities. Don't they provide them with arms? What more do you want? (Translation: Lili Galilee, HaAretz, November 6, 1985). ■

Palestine and Culture

Mistero Buffo

4 Scripts - 1 Actor

An Arabic translation of an Italian play based on religious satire will be performed at the Nuzha/el-Hakawati Theater next week.

The excerpts from the play consist of four sketches — The Birth of the Storyteller; The Resurrection of Lazarus; The Cripple and the Blind Man; and The Massacre of the Innocents — performed by the Palestinian actor Yusef Abu Wardeh. Abu Wardeh, who makes no costume changes, relies on facial expressions, body language and voice inflection to convince his audience that he is a slave, a master, a woman, even a crowd of merchants. The sketches are derived from Dario Fo's *Mistero Buffo* classic.

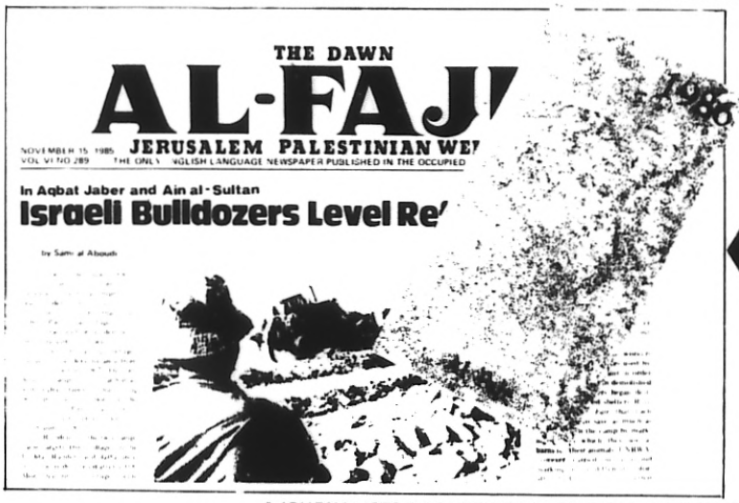
Although the original play dates from the Middle Ages, its various themes reflect elements of the current plight and struggle of the Palestinians.

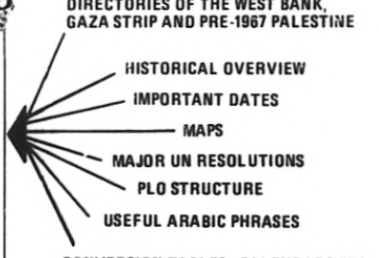
The producer and translator of the texts, George Khalifeh, and the director, Francois Abu Salem, have "arabized" the texts using Palestinian dialect and folklore.

Performances will be held December 7, 8, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21 and 22 at the Hakawati Theater.

PUT PALESTINE IN YOUR POCKET

A NEW DIRECTORY OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND PLACES





* JOURNALISTS * ACADEMICS * POLITICAL ACTIVISTS * VISITORS *

AL FAJR has prepared a comprehensive pocket diary containing local information on the WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP and PRE-1967 PALESTINE.

Such information is often difficult to find and has never before been compiled in one place.

The AL FAJR DIARY contains addresses and phone numbers of:

* LAWYERS * MUNICIPALITIES * UNIVERSITIES * PRESS * ORGANIZATIONS * INDUSTRY * ETC. IN ALL THE MAJOR CITIES *

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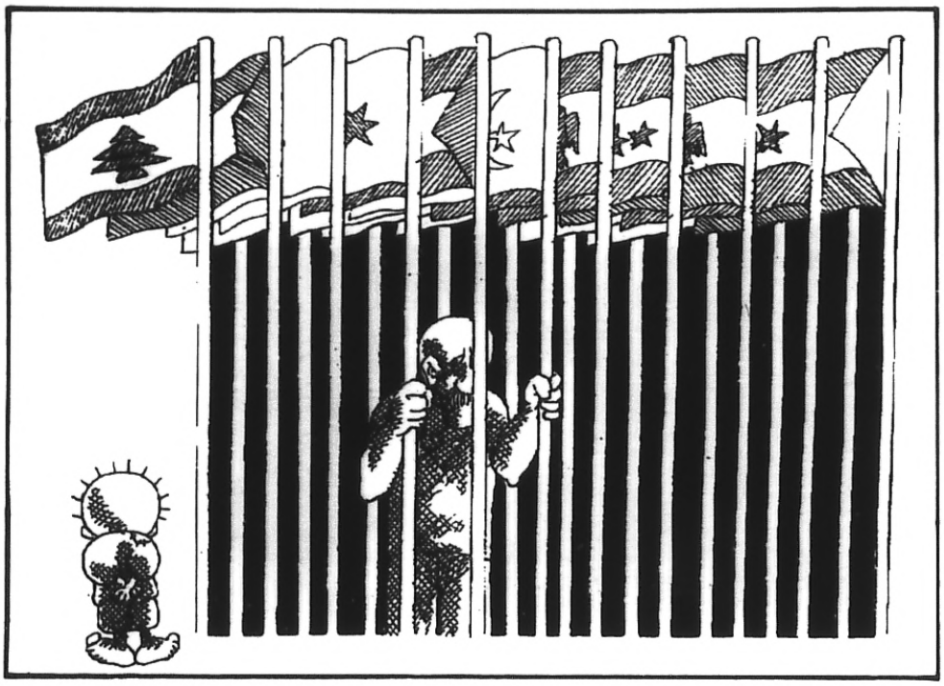

The appointment of Salah Khalaf as the head of a special committee to work for unity among Palestinian factions was welcomed by the local press.

Palestinian newspapers also covered the main events going on in the West Bank including the curfews in Qalqilya and Balatta refugee camp.

Richard Murphy's latest Middle East trip and the upbeat Jordanian-Israeli relations were also covered by the local press.

A Comprehensive Vision of UN Resolutions

The PLO neither accepted nor rejected UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Nothing strange. The PLO has associated all UN resolutions with these two and declared acceptance of all including these two resolutions. This acceptance stems from the conviction that all these resolutions together are the only guarantee to Palestinian rights. The Palestinian people have the right to demand that all resolutions be considered together as a unit. The PLO has repeatedly made clear this basic principle. The final statement of the Central Council asserted this point, making it quite clear that the acceptance of 242 and 338 is included in the acceptance of all resolutions together. So will the other parties be satisfied with this or will they stick to their position which divides the Palestinian cause? We hope that the Central Council's statement is acceptable at least to the Palestinian factions which still oppose the legitimate leadership.

AL FAJR
November 28

Palestinian Unity

The PCC, at the conclusion of its meetings in Baghdad, called for a unity meeting of all Palestinian factions. The call comes at a time when it is most needed. The continued differences in the Palestinian camp will adversely affect Palestinian interests and will open the door to those who try to ignore Palestinian rights. Before talking about an Arab strategy, we should demand that there be a Palestinian strategy that is definite and clear. The Palestinian arena witnessed tragic events during the past three years. It is time to hold inter-Palestinian meetings.

AL QUDS
November 28

National Dialogue is Difficult But Not Impossible

The repeated talk about reuniting the Palestinian ranks illustrates a determination to interpret this talk into an actual national dialogue so as to convene a comprehensive session of the PNC which, in turn, will take clear and binding Palestinian decisions. The Central Council emphasized this urgent need. A committee was formed to establish contacts with the other factions so as to close ranks and bridge all gaps. The mission is difficult but it is not impossible. We demand that the task be started soon. And we hope that no faction would be trapped into rejecting this dialogue for any reason.

AL FAJR
November 29

Solidarity Day

Today, the 29th of November, is considered by many worldwide as a day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. This decision was taken by the UN General Assembly as a result of the expanded effort by a unified PLO which was able to demonstrate Palestinian identity. But instead of supporting the achievements of the Palestinian people, we see some who try to lose these achievements. We see, for example, that they are making more and more concessions in response to American imperialism aimed at liquidating the cause of our people.

AL MITHAQ
November 29

Concentrate Efforts Rather Than Troops

While the Arab Reconciliation Committee is trying to find a way out of the impasse, Egypt and Libya are reported to be on the brink of war. The Reconciliation Committee, over the past three months, called for meetings between Syrian and Jordanian officials and between various Arab countries. It also worked for Egypt's return to the Arab world. Arab solidarity and reconciliation are the most important tasks, because the continuation of the current situation will keep the Arab world paralyzed. In 1977, a limited war broke out between Egypt and Libya. It could have been a factor that encouraged Sadat to visit Jerusalem at the time. As a result, Egypt left the Arab camp. And the Arabs could do no more than stand idly by to see Israel invade Lebanon. Should this tragic situation continue, the Arabs would be passive observers. So, the whole Arab nation should do its best to prevent war between Egypt and Libya.

AL QUDS
November 30

Efforts Should Continue

While it was declared that a committee headed by Salah Khalaf was formed to reinforce the efforts for achieving a Palestinian national unity, some factions rejected and condemned the call of the council issued from Baghdad. Some are continuing their attack on Palestinian legitimacy. This same leadership is also targeted by the US, Israel and the reactionaries for its rejection of any separate settlements. Some Palestinian factions are still defending the Syrian regime which has been laid bare. But despite the negative response, efforts should continue to achieve unity.

AL SHA'AB
November 30

On Murphy's Visit to Arab Capitals

Richard Murphy toured the Arab capitals and Tel Aviv to brief concerned leaders on the Geneva summit. All these leaders declared that there is an American-Soviet project for a settlement. This means there is partial Arab approval for a settlement. There also seems to be Soviet "approval" of this settlement, especially after the Geneva summit. But the question is, what is the role of the PLO? It is natural that such a role would be based on the Amman agreement which the US and Israel still reject. Is it possible that Murphy could have solved this problem? Yasser Arafat confirmed that the Central Council authorized the PLO Executive Committee to act freely within the framework of Palestinian inalienable rights. But there remains the question of Palestinian unity, which, if achieved, would enhance the Palestinian role.

AL FAJR
December 2

An Urgent Mission

It has been reported that Algeria renewed its efforts to achieve Palestinian unity. These reports coincide with the Central Council's call for an immediate dialogue among the various Palestinian factions. But so far there has been no response. On the contrary, some of them rejected the call. While such responses are deplorable, they should not be cause for discontinuing the efforts to achieve national unity. We expect the Palestinian factions to play a more positive role. The current stage allows for more division and fragmentation.

AL SHA'AB
December 3

Azzariya Shopowners Hit with Outrageous Tax

by Sami al-Aboudi

More than 60 shopowners from the village of Azzariya, east of Jerusalem, held a sit-in at the East Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce December 2 to protest heavy taxes imposed by the Israeli authorities.

Shopowners charge that the tax collection campaign is partly blackmail to get them to help the authorities in arresting people who have thrown Molotov cocktails at Israeli vehicles passing through the area.

Shops and businesses in the village were shut most of last week following a provocative raid by Israeli tax officials under border police protection. The raid was reportedly to check on payments of the Value Added Tax (VAT). The VAT, which was enforced in the occupied territories in 1977, is currently set at 17 percent of gross profits.

Shopowners said they were harassed and intimidated by the officials and border police who confiscated their ID cards and seized their business records. The border guards also arrested two shopowners — a tailor and a coffee shop owner — after they refused to pay the taxes imposed on them. They were released on bail three days later, Mustafa Abu Farha, a member of the shopowners ad hoc committee, said.

On December 4, the Israeli authorities arrested carpenter Sa'di al-Ghazali and held him briefly for refusing to pay taxes. He was ordered to pay IS4 million (US$2550) immediately in order to obtain his release.

Before leaving, the Israeli tax officials ordered shopowners to appear at the Bethlehem tax department to get the tax estimates and to pay them.

Merchants who went to the tax department said they were told to pay "astronomical amounts that were arbitrarily set without any logical justification," said Abu Farha. "The reasons behind our protests," said Abu Farha, "is that we were ordered to pay amounts that are four times our capital."

Some shopowners who have been in business for less than one month were asked to pay up to IS22 million (US$14,700). Harbi al-Shwaiki, a car mechanic who opened his shop early in November, was ordered to pay IS22 million. Riyad Abu Lafi, a body shop owner who also opened for business the beginning of November, was told to pay IS20 million (US$12,900), Abu Farha told *Al Fajr*.

Abu Farha, himself, who runs an aluminum shop was told to pay the highest amount of IS100 million (US$66,000). He says that all these ridiculously high amounts were levied despite the fact that all merchants keep business records and pay the VAT tax on a monthly basis. Israeli tax officials, however, say that the taxes shopowners were paying were not sufficient.

Shopowners and the Azzariya Village Council tried to get the Bethlehem area military governorate to reduce the taxes imposed on them but were thrown out. One shopowner said that the deputy military governor of Bethlehem refused to meet the merchants unless they "cooperate" in helping to arrest people who threw Molotov cocktails at Israeli vehicles.

Karate expert Osama al-Sharif practices for his black belt trial in England.

Karate Expert Heads for England

Palestinian karate expert, Osama al-Sharif, is scheduled to leave for England next week for a one-month training program in pursuit of a Dan-3 black belt.

Al-Sharif, 27, who is a typesetter at the *Al Fajr* Arabic daily printshop, is classified as one of the top experts in martial arts in the occupied territories. Currently he is the trainer at the YMCA in Jerusalem. He also trains in two clubs in Hebron, where he was the first to introduce karate several years ago. In all, a total of 350 students are training under him.

Al-Sharif says that he has been fond of karate since childhood. "I have always loved karate, and devoted my time to it," he said. He said he has been training for the Dan-3 black belt since he earned his Dan-2 from Spain in 1982.

The training trip to England, which will be conducted under international karate expert Encoda, is estimated to cost nearly JD700, which al-Sharif will pay out of his own pocket. Al-Sharif said that he hopes his trip will contribute to improving the status of martial arts in the occupied territories.

ADC

Continued from page 1

Judiciary Committees, both in the Senate and in the House, that hearings be held on the issue of domestic terrorism and what is being done about it."

Abourezk said he had requested a meeting with FBI Director William Webster for Friday, December 6. He said he would "urge upon him a renewed effort to bring the criminals to justice." He added that "a high official of the Justice Department will also be present at the meeting with Judge Webster."

The ADC head said he had given the FBI information linking a lone individual to a series of violent attacks against ADC regional offices. He said he believed the person was acting alone and not in connection with the extremist Jewish Defense League. FBI officials and Treasury Department officials investigating the fire had reportedly been investigating the JDL for possible responsibility. Officials said December 2 that they had three telegrams sent to ADC which purportedly linked JDL with the fire.

The FBI had reportedly seen a connection between the JDL and the bomb that killed Alex Odeh, regional director of the ADC Santa Ana Office, in October. A bomb found in August at ADC Boston headquarters injured a Boston police officer as he was attempting to defuse it.

The Jewish Defense League has denied responsibility for all the attacks. Irv Rubin, head of the JDL, denied he or his organization had sent the telegrams about the fire and said they were a "set-up" by Arab groups.

Detainee

Continued from page 1

Recent press reports said most of the administrative detainees have been moved from Beer Sheba Prison to Jnaid to appear before a court there for the purpose of extending their detention without trial. Only 10 detainees remain in Beer Sheba, the Haifa-based *Al Ittihad* Arabic daily reported.

One Palestinian administrative detainee, Kamal Alwani, was supposed to have been released November 29 according to a court order. However, Alwani was rearrested the day of his release under a renewed administrative detention order issued by the military government's central command.

Reports said that detainee Ayad Saleh Taiyeh is currently in the Jnaid Prison clinic. His illness is not known. Another prisoner, Khalil Munir Karajeh, is also suffering from a serious illness affecting his liver. He underwent an earlier operation to cure his illness. But since being in detention, he has not received any treatment, according to *Al Ittihad*.

Al Ittihad reported also that administrative detainees at Jnaid have been complaining of bad treatment contrary to international laws. They are not allowed to read newspapers or books and are crammed into small rooms, the paper said. Due to overcrowdedness, the paper added, several prisoners must sleep on the floor.

Families of the administrative detainees have urged world public opinion and humanitarian organizations to intervene on behalf of their sons. The families are demanding that at least representatives of the International Red Cross be allowed to see the detainees to check on their health.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SEEKS

A highly trained secretary (male/female). Multilingual (French-English-Arabic-Hebrew). Experienced (minimum 5 years in an executive position). Typing speed and accuracy. Available immediately. Candidates who fulfill the above requirements have to submit their curriculum vitae to:

P.O. Box: 20253 — Jerusalem
Or phone for appointment: 02/285657 — 285845 — 284885

Written applications will be accepted till December 15, 1985.
Telephone calls for appointments will be accepted from December 4 till 8, 1985.

Encyclopedia

Continued from page 1

been allowed in East Jerusalem or within Israel if brought in through the airport, sea or mail, Peled said. The encyclopedia is currently available in some Jerusalem libraries.

The encyclopedia is not the first publication to equate Zionism with racism. The French author Roger Garoudy discussed the relationship between Zionism and Nazism in his recent book *The Israel File: A Study in Political Zionism*. Garoudy's book has been banned in Israel as well.

The Palestinian encyclopedia is the first major collection of information on the history, culture, geography and politics of Palestine. It was published this year in a joint effort by the Palestine Liberation Organization Cultural and Education Department and the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science. It is considered a major scientific reference on Palestine.

MERIP Reports began in 1971 as a few mimeographed sheets providing information and analysis to the alternative media on US policy in the Middle East and on the political economy of the area. It grew into a magazine respected in its own right, produced by the MERIP collective, on the proposition that

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November 27

FOUR ASKAR HOUSES SEALED

The Israeli army sealed the homes of four Palestinian youths suspected of carrying out petrol bomb attacks on the police station in Askar refugee camp in the Nablus area. The houses belong to Abdel Qader Abu Kishek, Isma il Rumaneh, Kamel Abu Kheit and Mahmoud Abu Kishek.

PETROL BOMB ATTACKS

Two petrol bombs were tossed at an Israeli Egged bus near al-Bireh. Israel Radio said no one was harmed but the bus was slightly damaged. Troops cordoned off the area and detained two youths for questioning.

In another incident, an empty bottle was thrown at an Israeli border police patrol on the Bethlehem-Hebron road. No injuries or damage were reported.

14-YEAR-OLD BOY IN DETENTION

Israeli authorities are continuing to hold 14-year-old Ra'ed Lutfi al-Khamoun of Dheisheh in detention at al Fara'a Prison. Ra'ed, who was detained over a month ago, is charged with stone-throwing. He has denied the charges.

SIX DETENTIONS UPHELD

An Israeli military court in Gaza upheld administrative detention orders issued against six residents of the Gaza Strip. The court did not explain its decision. The six are: Adli al-Yazouri, Mahmoud Abu Mathkour, Tawfiq Abu Khosa, Ziad Sha'at, Kamel al-Zu'rub and Sami Abu Samaherneh.

SENTENCES

An Israeli military court in Lydda sentenced four youths from Jerusalem to prison terms ranging from 2-3 years in prison on charges of membership in a Palestinian organization and illegal possession of weapons.

Jawad Bader was sentenced to 3 years in jail and 3 years suspended and Ramadan Hussein, Jamal al-Rishiq and Khaled al-Dajani were each sentenced to 2.5 years in prison and 2.5 years suspended.

November 28

FOUR GAZANS SENTENCED

An Israeli military court in Gaza sentenced 25-year-old Mahmoud Arafat al-Khawaja, of al-Shati' camp, to four years in prison for possessing a revolver. His 50-year-old father was sentenced to six months in jail for assisting his son. The court also sentenced 25-year-old Muhammad al-Satri, of Breij camp, to 4 years in prison for membership in a local organization and attempting to hurl a petrol bomb. Nasir Muhammad Hamaed, 25, of Beit Hanon, was also sentenced to 20 months in prison for membership in a Palestinian organization.

14 RAFAH MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES REINSTATED

The Israeli High Court abrogated the decision to dismiss 14 municipal employees. The municipality was ordered to pay their salaries since August 1984.

AUGUSTA VICTORIA UNIONIST HELD

A police and border police force raided the house of Idris Salameh, secretary of the employees' union in Augusta Victoria hospital. Although finding nothing contraband in the house, the police arrested the unionist. A month ago the au*thorities arrested Muhammad Jad* Allah, member of the administrative body in the hospital. No reasons were given.

KUFR KANNA YOUTH SENTENCED

The Nazareth District Court sentenced Muhammad al-Khatib of Kufr Kanna, to two years in prison for purchasing arms from an Israeli soldier.

November 29

TENSION IN JNAID PRISON

Tension is growing in Jnaid Prison and there might be a serious clash between the detainees and the prison authorities, who are provoking the detainees all the time. The detainees refuse to line up in the morning because they already do that twice a day, at noon and in the evening. The 800 detainees demand the removal of the wall separating the old and new prison yards. It is reported that the detainees refused the orders of the authorities.

Head of the Islamic Higher Council, *Sheikh* Sa'ed al-Din al-Alami, meets with a delegation from the Regional Committee of Heads of Arab Local Councils. The delegation came in protest of Israeli attempts to desecrate *Al Aqsa* mosque.

DETAINEE RELEASED

Abdallah Saba al-Hodali, an administrative detainee from Beit Jala, was released after being held for 3 months. Abdallah was initially jailed for 6 months under administrative detention orders, but an Israeli military appeals panel accepted his petition and reduced the detention by half.

BORDER POLICE CHARGED WITH MEMBERSHIP IN FATAH

A member of the Israeli border police has been accused in court of membership in Fatah, the Israeli daily *Hadashot* newspaper reported. It said the man, who was not identified by name or rank, was charged in a military court in Lydda of delivering a hand grenade to a Palestinian group which used it for carrying out an attack on an army patrol.

November 30

JEC DENIES HA'ARETZ REPORT ON EMBEZZLEMENT

Stressing the "Arab character" of the firm, the Jerusalem Electric Company denied a report in the Israeli daily *Ha'Aretz* newspaper which claimed a sum of JD2 million belonging to the company had been embezzled. The JEC, in a strongly-worded statement, threatened to file a libel suit against the paper for its "false" report.

The statement warned the residents to be "fully aware of the lies being directed against our national institutions, the most prominent of which is the JEC." It concluded: "The JEC maintains the right to file a suit against *Ha'Aretz* demanding compensation."

December 1

GAZAN GETS 10 YEARS

An Israeli military court in Gaza sentenced Zaki Ibrahim Abu al-Aish, of Gaza, to 10 years in prison and five years suspended. He was charged with membership in a Palestinian organization, recruiting others and possession of weapons and petrol bombs.

TWO BROTHERS JAILED

An Israeli military court in Lydda sentenced Abdel Wahad Abdel Aziz Ishtai, 18, and his brother Khaled, 17, both from Jerusalem, to 12 months in jail and 18 months suspended on charges of stone-throwing.

APPEAL AGAINST LAND CONFISCATION

Landowners from Surif village in the Hebron district appealed to the Israeli military objections committee against military authorities' intention to confiscate a 1000-dunum plot belonging to the village as "state-owned property". The villagers say they possess documents proving their ownership of the land slated for expropriation.

HEBRONITE GETS JAIL SENTENCE

An Israeli military court in Nablus sentenced Khalaf Abed al-Talahmeh, of al-Burj village in the Hebron area, to three months in prison, three years suspended and a IS200,000 fine on charges of participating in a symbolic funeral for the late Fahd al-Qawasmeh in Hebron last year.

HEBRON DOCTOR JAILED

Dr. Jihad Khalil al-Badawi, of Hebron, was sentenced to 2.5 years in prison and a similar suspended sentence by an Israeli military court in Ramallah. He was charged with membership in a Palestinian organization and participating in the Lebanon war. Dr. al-Badawi worked at Alia Hospital in Hebron.

CAR CONFISCATED

Israeli military authorities confiscated a car owned by prisoner Muhammad Ibrahim Bukeirat on the pretext that he had used it for transferring weapons. Bukeirat, a resident of Jerusalem, is currently serving a four-year jail sentence on security charges.

JAILED FOR PETROL BOMB

Hani Hassan Hanoun, of Jenin refugee camp, was sentenced to eight months in prison and 28 months suspended by an Israeli military court in Jenin. Hanoun was charged with preparing a petrol bomb in 1980.

NAJAH PROTESTS CHECKPOINTS

Studies were suspended for two hours at an-Najah University in Nablus to protest army checkpoints set up at the university's entrances. Students and lecturers have been stopped at the checkpoints and prevented from reaching the campus.

December 2

POLICE VEHICLE TORCHED

Arsonists set fire to the car of an Israeli border police officer in the town of Beit Dagan near Tel Aviv, Israel Radio reported. The car, which was loaded with weapons and military equipment, was completely damaged said the report.

PETROL BOMB ATTACKS

A petrol bomb was thrown at an Israeli army vehicle near Beit Sahur in the Bethlehem area, military sources said. No one was injured. In another incident, a petrol bomb was thrown at an Israeli bus en route to Hebron. Again, no casualties or damages were reported.

The Bethlehem Bible College Choir currently on a three-week European tour.

THREE YOUTHS GET LIFE

Three youths from the villages of Beit Ur and Saffa in the Ramallah area were sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of killing an Israeli soldier in Ramallah's marketplace last February. The three, who were also charged with carrying out a number of anti-Israeli military attacks, were sentenced by a military court in Ramallah. The court, according to Israel Radio, turned down a prosecution demand for a death sentence. The three youths are Rafi Karajeh, Muhammad Nasser and Muhammad Badwan.

TWO GAZANS JAILED

An Israeli military court in Gaza sentenced Khalil Saleh Abdel Aziz, 21, of al-Bureij refugee camp to four years in prison and one year suspended on charges of illegal possession of a gun.

The court also sentenced Bahjat Abdel Ra'uf al-Bahloul of al-Shaja'iyeh to six months in prison and 30 months suspended on charges of membership in a Palestinian organization and weapons training.

STUDENT DEMONSTRATION IN GAZA

Students demonstrated in Jabalya refugee camp and Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people. The demonstrators raised Palestinian flags and pro-PLO placards.

HEBRON LAWYER RELEASED

Israeli authorities released Hebron lawyer Muhammad Uthman al-Ja'bari after he completed a three-month prison sentence and paid a fine of IS4 million on security charges.

SIX RESIDENTS DETAINED

Israeli military authorities are continuing to detain six residents from the Hebron area for unknown reasons. They are: Hamed Ali al-Ayaydeh, Mustafa Ali al-Ayaydeh, Dr. Amin al-Ayaydeh, Muhammad Hussein Abu Harb, Wasef Hussein Abu Harb and Hussein al-Amuri.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Readers are invited to advertise events free of charge: Wednesdays are the deadline for publication in the next issue.

December 5

Dabkeh: Palestinian folklore with the *Surda dabkeh* troupe from Ramallah, the *Zahrat el-Mada'en* music group from Shu'fat, *Zayal* from Jenin and others. At the Nuzha/el-Hakawati Theater, Jerusalem, 4:00 p.m. Telephone: 280957, 288189.

December 6, 8, 9

Theater: The Palestinian Theater Company opens their new play *Who's Barren?* at the Nuzha/el-Hakawati Theater. On December 6 and 9 at 6:00 p.m. and December 8 at 5:00 p.m. In Arabic.

December 7, 8

Theater: The Nuzha/el-Hakawati Theater is proud to present the opening of a new show — excerpts from Dario Fo's *Mistero Buffo*, performed by Yusef Abu Wardeh and directed by Francois Abu Salem. December 7 at 7:00 p.m. and December 8 at 7:30 p.m. In Arabic.

December 12, 13

Theater: Al-Jawwal Theater troupe from Sakhnin presents Emile Habibi's *Luka' Ben Luka'*. At the Nuzha/el-Hakawati Theater at 7:00 p.m. In Arabic.

EVENTS IN EUROPE

January 2 — 18

Theater: El-Hakawati Theater troupe is travelling to England to present *The Story of the Eye and the Tooth* at the Almeida Theater, Islington, London. All performances will be at 8:00 p.m. except for the premiere on January 2, which will be at 7:00 p.m. For further information ring (01) 3594404.

EVENTS IN THE US

November 24 — December 15

Music: Marcel Khalife and Al-Mayadeen are doing a concert tour of the United States and Canada. All proceeds will go toward supplies and materials for hospitals and health facilities in south Lebanon, as well as toward rebuilding Palestinian refugee camps. The scheduled US dates are as follows: Dec. 13 — Washington, D.C., Dec. 14 — Boston, Dec. 15 — New York City. Readers should watch for further information in their areas regarding concert locations and times.

November 30 — February 16

Exhibit: "Ebla to Damascus: Art and Archaeology of Ancient Syria," an exhibition of nearly 300 objects, including jewelry, sculpture and mosaics from ancient Syria is at the Museum of Natural History in Denver, Colorado.

December 11, 12

Film: Benefit showing of *The Mission* at 6, 8 and 10 p.m. at the Biograph Theater, Washington, D.C. Admission is $5.00 for the benefit of *Merip Reports*.

Jordan TV

Continued from page 7

silly and dangerously stereotyping. To hear the words of an expert, "The Egyptian products simply advocate the 'neo-feudalist' stream of thought that has taken over Egyptian society in the past few years." Thus says a local cinema director, George Khalifeh, who had extensive contacts in the art world in the Middle East. "They use these programs to familiarize the public with their attitudes so in a way they will be accepted."

A typical soap opera recently shown on JTV depicts rich Egyptians as a very unhappy group of people while the poor are righteous and happy that way. "In a way, they keep telling you that you are better off poor than rich, so that the rich minority can have its way," says Khalifeh. It is hard to tell whether the directors at JTV know that they are transmitting such unproductive messages to their people or not. But it is obvious that JTV is not used in a manner that would encourage people to build an active infra-structure in their society. You can't tell children on a nightly basis that to be poor is good and end up reaching the ranks of productive societies.

An overview of West Bank society surely indicates that the residents really do not have a better choice of spending time in the evenings except to watch television. With occupation forces roaming the streets, night life may come to a halt at any instant. Even if they expected the soldiers not to bother them, they do not go out. There are few theaters in the West bank. The several movie theaters scattered around are often filthy and not family-oriented. They cater to youths who watch violent Karate and Indian movies.

Even good books are hard to come by, so the people are excused when they spend as much as five hours per night watching JTV. But is JTV excused in offering such detrimental programs? ■

Partition

Continued from page 5

"Jewish question" is to be assimilated in their local societies and take their role in the development process in their native countries.

In Palestine the democratic state solution is still the right solution for the distant future. The complex political developments in the area which have taken place since the creation of Israel have, however, necessitated a change in tactic. The interim solution, represented in a Palestinian state in the territories occupied in 1967, is now adopted by the Palestinian revolution. It does not cancel the strategic long-term solution which will guarantee justice for all parties to the conflict. ■

Awad Abdel Fattah is a member of Al Fajr's *staff.*

Ahmad al-Hindi, a Palestinian of Indian origin who died last week in the Asqalan prison. He was suffering heart ailments.

Hospital

Continued from page 16

She was told her case was hopeless, Dr. Zuaiter, however, revived her hope and told her that there was a chance and that he would operate. Myasar 14, from Yatta in the Hebron district, is being treated for Maltese Fever which caused damage to her hip. Ibrahim, 10, from Gaza City, looks like he is at home, happy and quiet though his family are not around. He is undergoing treatment for a broken hip he suffered when he fell off a wall.

There are no private rooms for patients as it is important, says one nurse, that they always be close to one another. This leads to their happiness and cooperation in the face of disease. Food can only be brought to the patients under the supervision of the staff nurses. The administration only accepts food which can be shared by all patients in the room where the person visits.

There are no private offices whatsoever, not even for the doctors. The hospital director's office is also used as a clinic and for other hospital activities. Visitors, especially those who are aware of the situation at the government hospitals in the West Bank, marvel at the entirely different atmosphere which they find themselves in upon entering the hospital.

Probably the first thing they are likely to do is to look around for a guard or a doorman, but they will not see anything of the like. The hospital is open for all visitors without restrictions. Special regulations for patients' visiting hours are posted, taking into account that limiting visiting hours to a short period would overcrowd the hospital. Therefore visits are allowed each day between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Only two visitors can visit a patient at a time.

Tranquility, cleanliness, punctuality and accuracy of appointments are characteristics of this hospital which are rare in others in the area. Patients are well taken care of. The minute they enter the hospital they are received by the employees who accompany them to the department to which they are referred. No patient or visitor is left to move about in the hospital without being accompanied by an employee to carry his papers and direct him to where he should go.

The hospital offers as well training to doctors, nurses and physiotherapists. Foreign doctors and visitors regularly come to the hospital as trainees and volunteers. Training courses continue the year round for nursing students of the Bethlehem University, the Jerusalem University and many other institutions in the West Bank.

There are 124 employees, all Palestinians. They all live in a family atmosphere and feel no discrimination among them. They, in fact, give a hopeful picture of what cooperation among the Palestinians could achieve.

Muhammad, 29, a physiotherapist and father of three children from the neighboring village of Khader, said he was deeply satisfied with his job. He works 42.5 hours weekly and gets two days off. Muhammad dropped out of studying literature at the Arab University of Beirut and passed an 18-month course on physiotheraphy at the hospital school. He was then employed at the hospital for JD140 (US$350) which is considered a good salary. Muhammad explained with a smile saying, "Here we treat the patient more like a friend. This has a great psychological impact on the patient which helps him to overcome his illness better."

HOSPITAL DATA

1422	patients admitted to the hospital
6333	physiotherapy patients
2508	operations
20814	outpatient clinic visitors
2190	plaster cases
16054	X-ray films used
1724	medicine units consumed
8660	laboratory tests.

Bethlehem Jabal Daoud Orthopedic Hospital.

Orthopedic Hospital Bright Spot in Palestinian Medicine

by Khalil Touma

This fall a Palestinian physician in Jordan made front page news when he performed the first successful heart and kidney transplant in the Arab world. Not only did that help belie much of the negative stereotype Zionists work to pin on the Palestinian people, it also served to highlight other examples of Palestinian expertise in the field of medicine. One such example rests in the West Bank town of Bethlehem in the Bethlehem Jabal Daoud Orthopedic Hospital.

The hospital is entirely run by Palestinians. It is also recognized by universities in Europe and America for its progressive methods of surgery and treatment. It is also recommended by these universities as a place where graduate orthopedic interns can spend their year of residence, an honor uncommon to health institutions in the area.

On the Mount of David, to the right of the main road leading from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, and less than one minute's drive from the Church of Nativity where Jesus was born, stands the modestly arrayed and yet magnificent building overlooking the historical town of Bethlehem. The beauty of the surroundings serves to restore the smile on the faces of weary patients.

Historical Strides

The hospital has made great strides since it began in 1936 as a one-room clinic. During the epidemic of polio and the paralysis which spread throughout the country in 1952, the services of the hospital included examinations and surgery by volunteer American doctors and surgeons. Since the clinic was too small and insufficient for the increased need for surgical space, patients were transferred to other hospitals for operations. Patients were then returned to the hospital for treatment and intensive supervision by the doctors.

Fifteen years later in 1967, however, a small operating room was added to the hospital building; and in 1971 the hospital building was remodeled and opened as a full service hospital. It was in 1982 that the construction of the existing hospital building was completed by the Holy Land Christian Mission International, which also operates and finances the institution. "It was through the efforts of the president of the international mission, Mr R. Joseph Gripsky," says Dr. Ahmad Zuaiter, director of the hospital, "that the hospital has reached this prosperous state."

The mission, which began in Palestine in 1936 in the same year as the hospital, is a tax-exempt charitable institution registered in Kansas City in the United States. The hospital is only one of the mission's 18 buildings in a large complex which includes a children's home and a school providing needy orphans with a physical and mental education.

"The hospital," says Zuaiter, "is the last resort of a great number of people, particularly those who cannot afford the very expensive treatment in other hospitals. Eighty percent of our patients are poor and they are given priority," he says. Indeed it is the only hospital in the occupied territories which offers treatment free of charge to all patients except those who are injured in car accidents and are insured. The hospital charges nothing for physiotherapy, nor for general treatment. Operations are done entirely free of charge for every single patient in the hospital. The hospital doctors treat a variety of cases ranging from congenital deformities, post polio paralysis and multiple fractures with emphasis on those causing deformities of the hip, joint and foot.

Dr. Zuaiter, from Jerusalem, is a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in England. He has developed and improved a method for the correction of congenital deformities of the foot (club foot). The operation, which is known by his name as the Z operation, is considered unique and involves his own device. The 'Z' maneuver replaces several operations required in the past to deal with congenital deformities which often resulted in worse deformities and scars. His procedure has attracted patients from all over Palestine, as well as abroad and neighboring countries. The case of the 23-year-old Lebanese woman, *Al Fajr* reported November 8, is one of the best examples. Youlanda M. Abu Rafe', who was born with severely bowed legs, had two previous operations — one in Venezuela and the other at the American University Hospital in Beirut. But neither was successful. This year she was successfully operated on twice by Dr. Zuaiter and her legs were straightened, giving her seven extra centimeters in height. The operation, which required great skill was considered to be one of the most difficult operations in the hospital's history.

New Methods

Probably one major factor in the success of Dr. Zuaiter and his team is that they study the patient's environment and way of life so that they can determine the most appropriate and effective means of treatment and medication. For instance, in the case of congenital dislocation of the hip, the ways of treatment used in the West are not effective for people who usually squat or sit on their heels instead of on chairs, a thing which is still common in the East. Therefore, Dr. Zuaiter adopted new methods to deal with this problem. The operation involves the reduction of hips and pelvic osteotomy, thus enabling the patients to live more easily and to cope with their living conditions.

One unique department in the hospital is physiotherapy. In this department the best and most up-to-date instruments needed for physiotherapy treatment are more available than in any other local hospital. In this section there are little cubicles where patients are treated individually with hot, ice, and wax baths; short-wave diathermy; infrared irradiation; ultrasonic therapy; massage and many others. In this department however there are 12 qualified physiotherapists, all Palestinians.

"The least I can say about the treatment here is that it works and is wonderful," said Mariam, a patient in her 40s, lying covered with a white sheet undergoing treatment. She had two disk operations in her neck at Hadassah Hospital. She contacted Dr. Zuaiter when she began to feel pains and was told that she needed massages. After three months now, she has been through 12 half-hour sessions and feels much better. There are 12-16 cases, some like Mariam, treated daily in this department.

For artificial limbs and other equipment, the hospital imports them at a much lower price than is available in the local market. Therefore, the patient can obtain a needed instrument at cost price provided he or she promises to take care of the instrument. Poor patients, however, are given the instruments free of charge. The operating room is also very modern. The department has two main operating rooms and four others for casts, recovery, anaesthetic and changing. The team of surgeons is described by the annual pamphlet of the hospital as very well trained. "It is difficult to find a more qualified team in other hospitals here and throughout the world," says the pamphlet.

The hospital also includes an outpatient and emergency clinics with four rooms for examination, emergency surgery, casting and recovery. Also there is an intensive care room supplied with all the necessary instruments. Sterilization in the hospital is done in the most modern manner with steam and ethylene gas. It is centralized for all the hospital sections.

Other sections are the laboratory, the X-ray and the pharmacy. Now a new ultra-sound section for heart checkups is under preparation. Services in this section are also planned to be free of charge. There are 73 beds in the hospital distributed on seven wards each containing eight beds. There is also one other children's ward containing 10 beds and seven other beds in the intensive care section.

Pleased Patients

The patients' wards are equipped according to specifications insuring the best treatment in the most suitable atmosphere. Here you find patients from various Palestinian areas ranging from the far south of the Gaza Strip to the northern Nablus district. They all appear satisfied with the treatment and expressed their deep appreciation to the doctors and nurses for their affectionate touches. Divorced Majdiya, 24, from the Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, suffers from polio paralysis in one leg.

Continued on page 15

Baby Luna Yusef Ali is shown before and after her corrective surgery to straighten her bowed legs.